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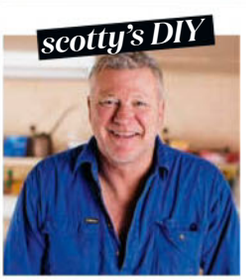












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THE EXPERTS CHERIE BARBER + JAMES TREBLE + DALE VINE + DR LISA CHIMES + SCOTTY CAM



embrace the interior designer within

At kaboodle we think a beautiful kitchen should be within everyone's reach. So, we found a way that Australian families can save thousands of dollars and still enjoy designer styling and high-end kitchen features. Imagine a kitchen designed by you, that comes in a box and is easily put together. The results...well you're looking at them.

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HOMES +

CONTENTS

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EVERY ISSUE

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Meet our talented homeowners and **homes+** experts

10 VIEWA
Get **extra content** on your phone or tablet

ON THE COVER
This month, we meet Cecilia Hilal, who transformed a neglected home in north-west Sydney into **a warm family haven with a colonial feel**. Inspired by the Hamptons, Cecilia brought a timeless country feel to the suburbs.

WELCOME TO HOMES+
Style is for everyone and your home is all about making you happy. Say hello to **homes+** – a magazine that delivers accessible, practical and easy ideas that we hope will brighten your month.
– The **homes+** team.

PRACTICAL IDEAS

13 EASY DIY
Need a creative outlet? Or want to spruce up your home without blowing the budget? Check out these **eight easy and affordable projects**. From marble-look planters to jar wall vases and dim sum steamer shelves to display your treasured ornaments, there's plenty to inspire. The best part: you don't need to be an accomplished decorator to master these clever yet effective design touches.

BARGAIN BUYS

25 $30 & UNDER
We've uncovered a **treasure trove of beautiful objects for each room of your home** including the bedroom, bathroom, lounge and kitchen – and all of them with an affordable price tag. Choose from contemporary, classic, beachy or country – whatever suits your style!

84 BEST BUYS
This month we **road test rugs**, bringing you the best picks to transform your living space, from neutrals to bold statement floor coverings. There are also circular options and hallway runners, too.

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36 CLASSIC
Rachel and her husband Marty honoured their home's Victorian heritage **while also playing with a series of modern twists**. Working to a palette where silvers and greys take centre stage, they maximised space and improved indoor-outdoor flow.

44 COUNTRY
See how Cecilia spent five and a half years renovating her home into a stylish space that encouraged family to gather, decorating it with a **neutral colour scheme and timber accents**.

52 CONTEMPORARY
A masculine feel, plenty of light and a gallery for his vintage decor pieces was exactly what Jet wanted to achieve when creating his contemporary home near Canberra.









EASY FOOD

61 MEAL PLANNER
Feeling frazzled at the end of a busy day doesn't help when you're thinking about what you're going to cook for dinner. That's where we come in. We've taken the headache out of mealtimes with our **monthly meal planner**. Broken down into weeks, the planner will do all the work for you. Your family will thank you for it.

74 BANOFFEE MERINGUE DESSERT
It looks elaborate, but this banoffee meringue with honeycomb is easy to assemble with our simple steps. The **delicious banana and caramel flavours** will leave a lasting impression on your guests.

BEFORE & AFTER

78 MATT AND KIM TO THE RESCUE
Former *Block* contestants Matt and Kim lent their renovating expertise to the Butler family, for whom home renovation was simply out of reach. In **a heartwarming project**, the couple transformed this rundown house in Perth into a trendy, family-friendly home. Here's what they did, with before-and-after pics and Matt and Kim's styling and reno tips.

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91 BUILD A FIRE PIT IN YOUR BACKYARD
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READER HOMES





BEAUT BULB

"We love these simple and inexpensive pendant lights from **Beacon Lighting**. They gave an industrial focal point over the kitchen island."

JET CHESHIRE – SEE PAGE 52





GARDEN VARIETY

"I love how the white of the stylish Högsten chair from **Ikea** contrasts against my garden. And it was so reasonably priced, too!"

RACHEL RANKIN – SEE PAGE 36





BRIGHT AND BOLD

"These pendants from **Beyond Bright** transformed the feel of my kitchen and added brightness. They are so easy to keep clean."

CECILIA HILAL – SEE PAGE 44

READERS AND EXPERTS

IN THIS ISSUE

homes+ readers and the experts reveal their favourite products.

THE EXPERTS

I LOVE *CHALKBOARD PAINT* AS A WAY TO CREATE AN EVER-CHANGING, FUNCTIONAL FEATURE WALL IN THE HOME. IT'S ALSO A GREAT WAY TO KEEP THE WHOLE FAMILY ORGANISED AS YOU CAN LEAVE NOTES, AND IMPORTANT DATES ARE CLEARLY MARKED FOR ALL TO SEE.

JAMES TREBLE



(see page 102)



(see page 106)

THE OZITO DETAIL SANDER ($44) is a great tool for DIY projects around the home. You can use it to remove old paint and refinish dated furniture in a quarter of the time than sanding by hand.

CHERIE BARBER

THE *PETLIFE PYRAMID TREAT DISPENSER* ($15.88) IS A GREAT BOREDOM-BUSTER FOR CATS. SIMPLY FILL IT WITH TREATS AND YOUR CAT WILL LEARN HOW TO KNOCK THE TOY TO RELEASE THEM. IT HAS A WEIGHTED BOTTOM, SO IT ALWAYS BOUNCES BACK.

DR LISA CHIMES





(see page 110)



(see page 92)

As a landscaper, I love this brass *spray gun by Pope*, $29.90, as it is very durable. Unlike plastic spray guns, it won't break if dropped or when thrown in the back of the ute with the hose for a job.

DALE VINE

THERE'S NOTHING FINER THAN THE GIRLS WEARING WORKWEAR, AND *THE BISLEY WOMEN'S DRILL SHIRT* IS A CRACKER. IT'S GOT TWO FRONT POCKETS TO PUT YOUR GEAR IN AND SPF50+ PROTECTION. AVAILABLE AT SCOTTYCAM.COM.AU, $32.95.

SCOTTY CAM





(see page 112)



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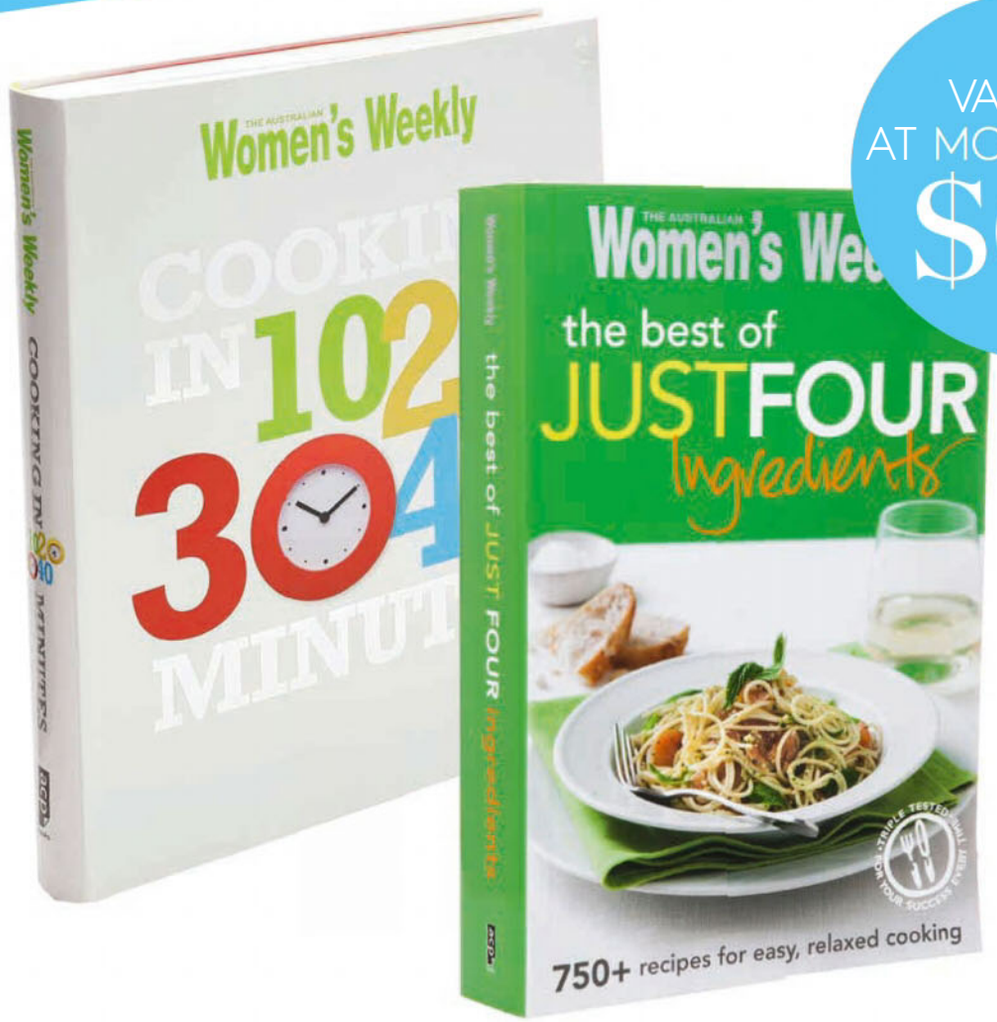
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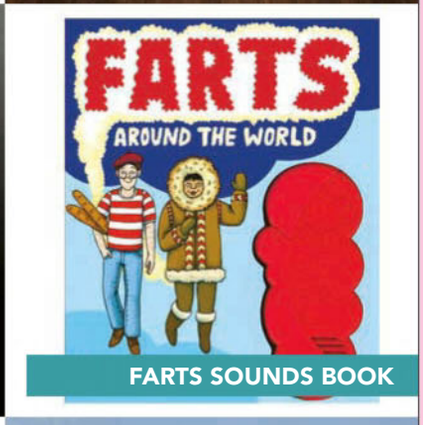
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Buy a selection of items off the page **from p25**

MORE FROM THE HOMES
Watch a video of Rachel's timeless home **p37**
...then shop some of her best buys **p41**
Check out a video of Cecilia's idyllic home **p45**
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BEFORE & AFTER
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ENTER FOR PRIZES
There are prizes worth more than $3000 up for grabs **p109**

DIY WITH SCOTTY CAM
Watch Scotty making his timber drinks holder **p113**

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IDEAS

(AFFORDABLE, EASY, DOABLE)

8 COOL & EASY DIY IDEAS!



Sweet spot
Show off your favourite pieces and create themed vignettes in these display shelves. ›

THIS MONTH GET YOUR DIY ON & MAKE THESE GREAT PROJECTS

HOW-TO VIDEO
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MAKE IT YOURSELF

STEP-BY-STEP DIY PROJECTS

Get your creative juices flowing and make these **cool DIY projects** that are the ultimate statement pieces.

$15.98

TWO-TONE CUSHIONS

YOU WILL NEED 2 X PIECES OF DIFFERENT COLOURED COTTON FABRIC; PRE-CUT TRIANGLE STENCIL ON PAPER – TO MAKE THIS DRAW A 45CM SQUARE THEN CUT IN HALF DIAGONALLY; PENCIL; SCISSORS; SEWING PINS; SEWING MACHINE; 45CM CUSHION INSERT

STEP ONE Starting with one piece of coloured fabric (we used navy), place triangle stencil at one end and trace around it with a pencil. Repeat at the other end so you have two triangles in the same colour. Repeat process on the other piece of fabric (we used orange).

STEP TWO Use scissors to cut out triangles on orange fabric, leaving a 3cm excess around the edges of the marked lines for your hem.

STEP THREE On the navy fabric, cut out one triangle leaving 3cm excess around the edges. For the second triangle, leave 3cm around the long side and one of the short sides and 20cm excess on the other short side. This longer flap will be used to create an envelope closure.

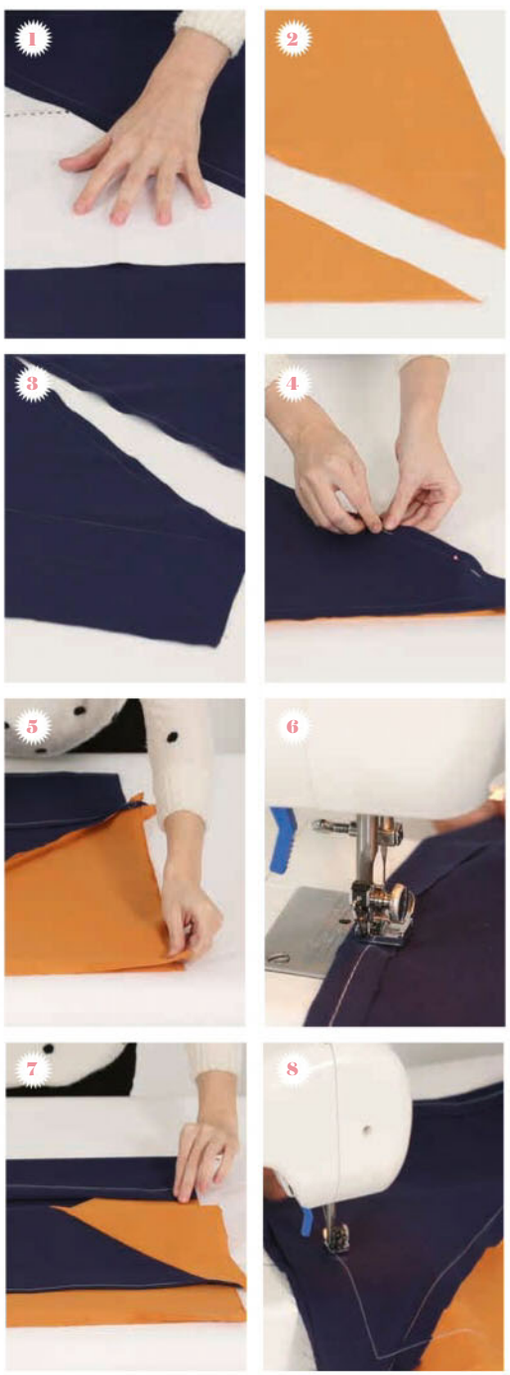
STEP FOUR Place two triangles of different colours on top of each other with the pencilled sides facing outwards. Pin along the pencilled line on the longer side of triangles, then sew together using a sewing machine or by hand, removing pins are you go. When you open this up, you should have a large square. Repeat process on final two triangles to create a rectangle shape.

STEP FIVE Place first/square-shape fabric on a flat surface with the sewn-side facing up. Fold the excess fabric on one side of the square over and pin in place. This is where the opening will be.

STEP SIX Lay the second/rectangle-shape fabric sewn-side up and fold 3cm of the 20cm flap in. Pin in place. Sew hems in place on both pieces of fabric, removing pins are you go.

STEP SEVEN Place fabric pieces on top of each other with sewn sides facing out, making sure each respective coloured triangle matches up – the longer flap and hemmed opening should both be at the same end. Now fold the 20cm flap in so it lies between both pieces of fabric. The crease should line up with the hem of the square-shaped fabric so both squares sit evenly together. This side will remain open.

STEP EIGHT Pin the three other sides of squares together along the pencilled lines. Sew together, removing pins as you go. Finally, turn your cushion cover right side out. Place the cushion insert inside, then fold the envelope closure over to keep insert in place. ›

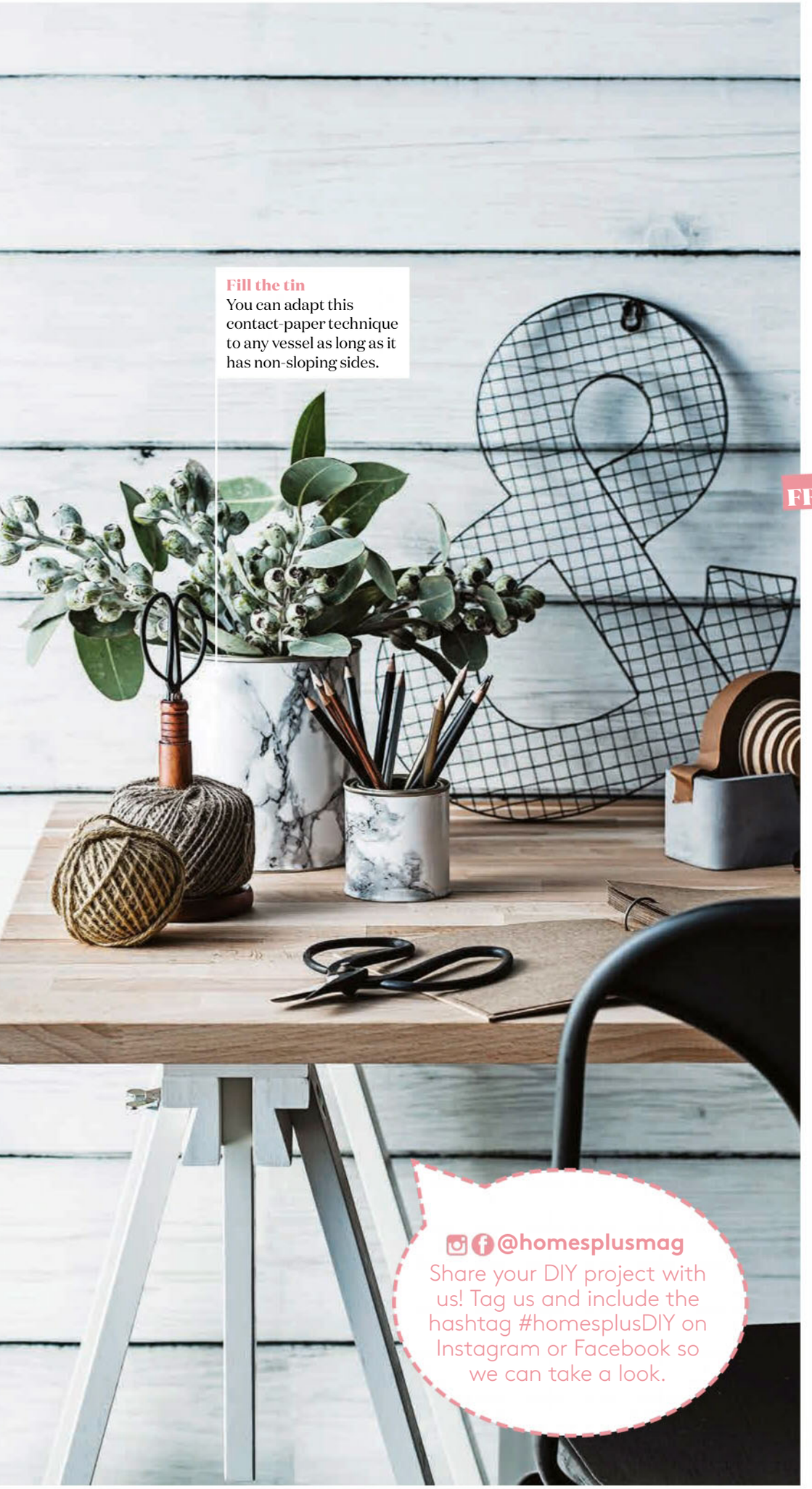


PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER (SHELVES & MARBLE STORAGE) & JAMES HENRY **STYLING** JACKIE BROWN
PROJECTS FIONA MICHELON & JACKIE BROWN **STYLING ASSISTANTS** CORINA KOCH & JACINDA MARTIN



Feel it
Rather than choosing two colours, you could also try combining different textures. For example, natural linen and tan faux leather or faux fur and velvet.

FOR PROJECT Cushion **inserts** (45cm), $9.98 each, and Polypop poly/cotton **fabric** in Royal and Gold (112cm), $3.98 a m, from Lincraft. **IN THE PICTURE** Stockholm **bedside table** in Oak, $395, from Matt Blatt. Clive **pendant lamp**, $59, from Clickon Furniture. ON BED Washed velvet quilted **throws** in Mustard and Slate, $159 each, Sove linen Euro **pillowcases** in Citron and Ink, $34.90 each, Cotton velvet **cushion cover** in Mustard and Navy, $44.90 each, and Grey linen **quilt cover** in Double, $259, from Citta Design. ON TABLE Bamboo mantel **clock** in Natural, $41, and Yoda & Shibata "Fika" **cafe set** in Green/Natural, $48, from Matt Blatt. Misty **vase**, $27.95, from OZ Design Furniture. ON FLOOR Bermuda floor **rug** in Grey (1.6m x 2.3m), $699, from Freedom.



Fill the tin
You can adapt this contact-paper technique to any vessel as long as it has non-sloping sides.







FROM $0.40

MARBLE PLANTERS/ STORAGE

BEGIN WITH EMPTY PAINT TIN OR OTHER TIN; STRING; SCISSORS; RULER; PENCIL; MARBLE-LOOK CONTACT PAPER; UTILITY KNIFE

STEP ONE Take a piece of string and wrap it around the tin to measure its circumference. Cut the string where the ends meet. Then measure the height of tin with a ruler.

STEP TWO Roll marble contact paper on a flat surface with the paper back facing up. Use a pencil and ruler to mark out the height of the tin on the contact paper, then mark out its circumference using the string. Cut out rectangle using a ruler and a utility knife.

STEP THREE Stick contact paper around tin, using a cloth to press down as you go for a smooth finish and to remove air bubbles.

FOR PROJECT Marble **contact paper** in White (45cm wide), $9.95 a m, from Crockers Paint. Empty **paint tin**. Piece of **string**.

IN THE PICTURE Linnmon/Finnvard **table** in Birch Effect and White, $255, from Ikea. City2 **dining chair** in Antique Metal, $89, from Super Amart. ON DESK Grunt **jute twine**, $9.98 for 300m, from Bunnings. Ampersand "&" **noticeboard**, $29.99, from Typo. Concrete **tape dispenser** in Smoke, $49.95, from Country Road. Brown **cotton tape**, $16.50, O-Check **string**, and **scissors** and **spool set**, $39.95, from Paper2. For similar notebook try A5 brown-cardboard **notebook**, $20.83, from Etsy. ON WALLS Rebel Walls "Horizontal Boards" **wallpaper** in White, $69 a sq m, from Scandinavian Wallpaper & Décor.

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Share your DIY project with us! Tag us and include the hashtag #homesplusDIY on Instagram or Facebook so we can take a look.

$80.40
COAT RACK

BEGIN WITH 3 X 1.2M DOWEL LENGTHS; PENCIL; RULER; 3 X 45MM; TIMBER SCREWS; DRILL; LEATHER STRIP

STEP ONE Measure 35cm from the top of one dowel length and mark with a pencil. Repeat process on second and third dowel lengths.

STEP TWO Drill a hole at each mark on each dowel length, drilling all the way through.

STEP THREE Get a friend to hold the three poles together in position so the dowels are criss-crossed (as shown at right), with the drilled holes lining up.

STEP FOUR Check that the legs are an even distance apart on the floor, then insert a screw through the pre-drilled hole on one dowel and into the pre-drilled hole on the adjacent length of dowel. Repeat until all three poles are attached securely together with screws.

STEP FIVE Wrap the leather strip around all three dowels to conceal the screws, and tie in a loose knot. ›

FOR PROJECT Porta 32mm Tasmanian oak **dowel** (2.4m), $44.81, from Bunnings (we got two dowels cut in half at the store, producing four 1.2 metre lengths). Italian belt leather **strap** in Tan (30mm x 1.2m), $13.20, from Birdsall Leathercraft. **IN THE PICTURE** Helvig **sideboard** in Oak, $1620, from Matt Blatt. ON SIDEBOARD Sabina Klein *Stormy Nights* **print**, $135 unframed, from Clickon Furniture. Isos "Stout" **vase** in Yellow, $110, from Matt Blatt. Punched-bone leather **wallet**, $89.90, from Citta Design. ON RACK **Hat**, $149, from Citta Design. Snug **cardi**, $59.95, from Cotton On Body. ON FLOOR Skylar **rug** in Multi (1.6m x 2.3m), $299, from Freedom. Houndstooth shopping **bag**, $39.90, from Citta Design.



Up to you!
Leave the dowel raw or have fun by painting each one in a different colour or stain before assembling.











Three is key
Remember the rule of threes for decorating – different heights add interest and also work well.

$6.70 FOR SMALL

WOOD-VENEER VASES

YOU WILL NEED IRON-ON WOOD VENEER SHEETS; CYLINDER VASE; IRON; BAKING PAPER; PENCIL; SCISSORS; PAINTER'S TAPE; PAINT IN COLOURS OF YOUR CHOICE; PAINTBRUSH

STEP ONE Place the veneer strip on a flat surface with the veneer side face down. Place the vase on its side on top of veneer and use a pencil to mark out the height of vase. Then wrap veneer around vase, creating an overlap, and mark out with pencil. Unwrap vase and cut out the pencilled rectangle shape.

STEP TWO Wrap the cut-out rectangle of veneer around glass vase tightly and secure in place using painter's tape.

STEP THREE Cover veneer with a piece of baking paper and slowly move a hot iron, with steam function off, over paper to activate the glue on the veneer. Let veneer cool before removing tape.

STEP FOUR Adhere lengths of painter's tape evenly around the vase to create a striped pattern that you like. Paint in between the strips in the colours of your choice. Once dry, paint a second coat before removing tape.









FOR PROJECT Iron-on **veneer strips**, from $29.70 for 2.44m x 30.5cm, Bruynzeel. Cylinder **vase** in Clear Glass, $19.99 for 3, from Ikea. **IN THE PICTURE** Folded 3-seat **sofa** in Austria Gold, $1799, from Freedom. Stockholm Jakob **coffee table** with shelf in Oak, $495, from Matt Blatt. ON SOFA Kora **cushion cover**, $69.90, and St Joseph **throw** in Indigo, $119, from Citta Design. **real living** for Freedom "Chunky Knit" **cushion** in Charcoal (50cm), $59.95, from Freedom. ON COFFEE TABLE **Tray** from Ikea. Printed A4 Buffalo **journal** in Tooled, $24.99, from Typo. **real living** for Freedom "Adele" **mug** in Emerald, $7.95, from Freedom.



Kitchen garden
If you don't want a herb garden, you could just use the vases with a bit of water in the bottom to store cut herbs and keep them fresh.

$4.60 EACH

JAR WALL VASES

BEGIN WITH RULER; PENCIL; 20CM X 20CM, 9MM-THICK PLYWOOD SQUARES; LEATHER STRAPS; STAPLE GUN; GOLD UPHOLSTERY NAILS; HAMMER; 3M VELCRO PICTURE-HANGING STRIPS

STEP ONE Using a ruler and pencil, measure 8cm in from one corner of the timber square. Repeat on the opposite corner.

STEP TWO Place the jar in the middle of square, in between the two marks, so that it is diagonal to the square. Lay leather strap over the middle of jar. Hold one end of strap over one mark and staple in place. Repeat on other end, pulling strap tight to ensure jar is held in place.

STEP THREE Place a gold nail over the staple on one side of leather strap and hammer in place. Repeat on other side. Make as many timber jar vases as you require and hang them on the wall using velcro picture-hanging strips. ›







FOR PROJECT XBall 500ml regular-mouth **preserving jars**, $22.50 for 12, from Redback Trading Company. Belt **leather strap** in Tan (30mm x 1.2m), $13.20, from Birdsall Leathercraft (cut to 16cm lengths). Paslode brass-plated round-head **upholstery nails**, $5.95 for 25, and AA Grade 9mm hardwood marine **plywood** (1.22m x 61cm), $25, from Bunnings (we got the plywood sheet cut to 20cm x 20cm squares). **IN THE PICTURE** **real living** for Freedom "Adele" mugs in White, $7.95 each, from Freedom. Danbo whitewash oblong **board** in Large, $129, Wooden **mortar & pestle**, $29.90, Finch dinner **plates**, $119.60 for 4, and pasta **bowls**, $119.60 for 4, from Citta Design. Proppmätt **chopping board** in Beech, $3.99, and Vörda cook's **knife**, $9.99, from Ikea.

$31.48 EACH

DIM SUM STEAMER DISPLAY BOX

BEGIN WITH 1 X LARGE 14-INCH BAMBOO STEAMER; JIGSAW; DRILL; ROPE; FISHING LINE; RULER; PENCIL; PLYWOOD SHEET; CHISEL & HAMMER; WOOD GLUE (OPTIONAL)

STEP ONE Place bamboo steamer on top of two timber lengths and use a jigsaw to cut lines through the inside weave of the steamer. This can be a fairly jolty process so take extra care and get a friend to help you hold the steamer so it doesn't move around too much. Pull the weave out. You should now have a bamboo circle.

STEP TWO Use a drill to make a set of two holes, about 2cm apart, on one side of bamboo circle going all the way through. Repeat on opposite side.

STEP THREE Cut a 50cm length of rope and tie a double knot at both ends.

STEP FOUR Cut one 15cm length of fishing line and thread it through both holes on the outside side of the circle to create a loop. Place one end of rope under the loop and pull fishing line tight from the inside of the circle to hold rope in place. Tie in a secure knot. Repeat process on the other end to create a handle to hang the shelf up. Cut excess fishing line.

STEP FIVE Take the plywood and, using a ruler and pencil, measure and mark out one 6.5cm by 32cm rectangle. Then measure and mark one 4.7cm by 32cm rectangle.

STEP SIX On the (wider) 6.5cm by 32cm rectangle, measure and mark 15.7cm in from either (long) end. Use these to measure and mark a narrow 0.6cm wide by 4.7cm long rectangle, aligned to one side of the board.

STEP SEVEN Use jigsaw to cut rectangles out. Then use a chisel and hammer to chip away the marked-out rectangle on the wider piece. This is there the other rectangle will slot in.

STEP EIGHT Slide 4.7cm by 32cm rectangle into slot to create a cross shape, then insert inside bamboo circle. If the shelves don't fit, apply glue to edges and secure in place. ›

THIS PAGE FOR PROJECT Extra-large **bamboo steamer** (14-inch), $59.95 for 2, from eBay, or try Asian grocery suppliers. Grunt **fishing line** (0.6mm x 250m), $5.98, Grunt multi-purpose **rope** in Black (4mm x 20m), $5.36, and Project Panel premium BC **plywood** (2.7mm x 1200mm x 810mm), $9.45, from Bunnings. **IN THE PICTURE** Replica Thonet "Ombre No. 18" bentwood **chair**, $245, from Matt Blatt. Sniglar **cot** in Beech, $79, from Ikea. ON CHAIR Wacky sheep **toy**, $27.90, and Bianca bunny **toy**, $17.90, from Citta Design. ON COT Bednest fitted **sheet** in Harlequin Stripes, $39, from Olli Ella. Tejn **faux sheepskin**, $19.99, from Ikea. ON WALLS Lupe **wall hooks** in Natural, $79.95 for 3, from Country Road. ON/IN LEFT BOX Feather **garland** in Mono, $37.50 for 2.5 m, from Olli Ella. Mini **bird feeder**, $16.01, Pill **box** in Copper, $28, and Dala **horse** in Sky, $15, from Have You Met Miss Jones. Vision **board kit** in Minimalist, $9.95 for 10, from Kikki.K. IN RIGHT SHADOW BOX Ceramic **milk bottles** in Blue, $24.99 for 4, from Typo. Cactus small **box**, $59, and Standing **mouse**, $14, from Have You Met Miss Jones. Painted wooden **bird**, $29.90, from Citta Design.



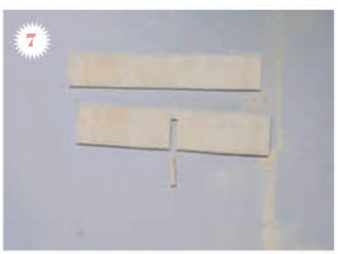
















In the box
For safety reasons, we recommend you avoid placing heavy objects in the display shelves. Keep out of reach of tiny fingers, too.



Up the ante
You could also splurge and make these out of one piece of thick, real leather for a luxe finish.

$2.12 FOR TRIANGLE SHAPE

FAUX-LEATHER CATCH-ALL

BEGIN WITH FAUX LEATHER (PU/PVC LEATHER); RULER; PENCIL; SCISSORS; DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE; 4MM SINGLE-HOLE PUNCH; LEATHER CORD

STEP ONE Place leather on a flat surface with the shiny side facing down. Using a ruler and pencil, measure and mark two triangles with a 20cm base and 15cm sides. Use scissors to cut triangles out.

STEP TWO Place triangle cut-outs on a flat surface with the shiny/good side facing down. Place double-sided tape along each edge of one triangle cut-out, then place matching piece evenly on top (good-side up) and apply pressure to stick the pieces together.

STEP THREE Pinch one corner of the leather triangle together and use a hole punch to punch 3cm in from the corner, creating a hole on either side. Repeat process on all three corners.

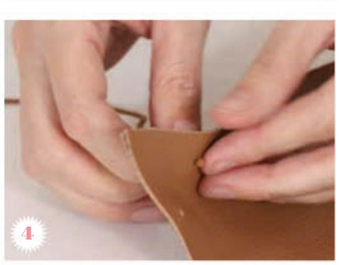
STEP FOUR Cut a 10cm length of leather cord. Tie a double knot on one end of one leather cord, then feed the other end through both holes on one corner. Pull cord tight to pinch folded edges together and secure in place by tying another double knot on other end. Trim excess cord with scissors and repeat process on each corner. You could also make these catch-alls in the same way with square-shaped pieces of faux leather instead.













FOR PROJECT **Faux leather** in Tan, $19.99 a m, and Ribtex leather **thonging**, $1.79, from Lincraft. IN THE PICTURE Stockholm **console table** in Oak, $695, and Orbit storage **stool** in Oak, $295, from Matt Blatt. ON TABLE Jarvis stone **vase**, $36, from Clickon Furniture. Tassel leather **key holder** in Soft Rose, $24.90, from Citta Design. Felix table **lamp**, $99.95, from OZ Design Furniture. Jewellery and cosmetics, stylist's own.

$10.55 FOR SIX

ANIMAL DRAWER HANDLES

BEGIN WITH PLASTIC TOY ANIMALS; DRILL WITH BIT THE SAME WIDTH AS ROD; THREADED ROD; HACKSAW; SPRAY PRIMER; GOLD SPRAY-PAINT; HOT-GLUE GUN OR SUPERGLUE; PENCIL; RULER; NUTS TO FIT ROD

STEP ONE Drill a hole part-way into the side of each plastic toy animal and remove any excess plastic.

STEP TWO For each handle, cut a 5cm length of threaded rod using a hacksaw.

STEP THREE Spray plastic animals with primer. Once dry, apply a layer of gold spray-paint. Allow to dry completely.

STEP FOUR Apply a small amount of glue inside drilled hole on animal and to one end of a threaded-rod piece. Wriggle rod into hole. Repeat process for each animal. Leave to dry.

STEP FIVE Measure and mark handle placement on drawer fronts. Drill holes all the way through each mark.

STEP SIX Twist rod of animal handles through holes on drawer fronts and secure with a bolt on the open end. H+

FOR PROJECT PVC mixed wild **animal figures**, $4.99 for 12, from eBay. White Knight "Rust Guard" **primer**, $14.90, and White Knight "Squirts" **spray-paint** in Gold, $7.45, from Bunnings. Construct-it **threaded rod**, $7.20 for 30cm, from Masters Home Improvement. **IN THE PICTURE** Milk & Sugar "Finn" **pendant light** in Slate, $99, from Life Interiors. ON BED Kids **quilt cover set** in Denim, $135, and Roundie **cushion**, $45, from Onekind Design. Cotton velvet **cushion cover** in Mustard, $44.90, and St Joseph **throw** in Indigo, $119, from Citta Design. ON DRAWER Resin deer head **wall hanging**, $115, from Matt Blatt. Novelty camera **flask**, $24.99, from Typo. ON WALL Wild & Free **print**, Forever More **print**, and Bear **print**, $25 each, from Senna Jean Designs. ON FLOOR Classic **tumbling blocks set**, $38, from Matt Blatt.



Go wild
For kids rooms, customise this idea and make themed handle sets! You could try safari, farm, jurassic, sea...













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BARGAIN BUYS

SHOPPING

(FAB FINDS TO SUIT YOUR STYLE)



BUDGET BUYS $30 AND UNDER FOR YOUR HOME!

Mix it, match it
Add a smattering of colour and pattern to your interiors with accessories, such as these fabulous vessels!

LINE UP, LINE UP
Ekby Tryggve **shelf** (1.19m x 28cm), $9.99, from Ikea. VESSELS FROM LEFT Tonique **container**, $8.89, from Freedom. Morgan & Finch **vases** in Blue & Pale Blue, $9.95 each, from Bed Bath N' Table. Ceramic **vessel** in Pink, $19.95, from Freedom. ›

PHOTOGRAPHY SCOTT HAWKINS (THIS PAGE); GETTYIMAGES.COM.AU; ALAMY.COM
STYLING CHRISTINA BANOS & REBECCA RHODES (THIS PAGE)

THIS MONTH LIVING ROOM, KITCHEN, BATHROOM & BEDROOM

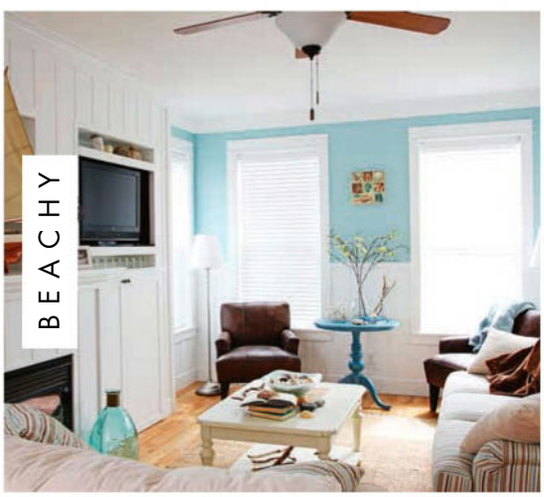
Living



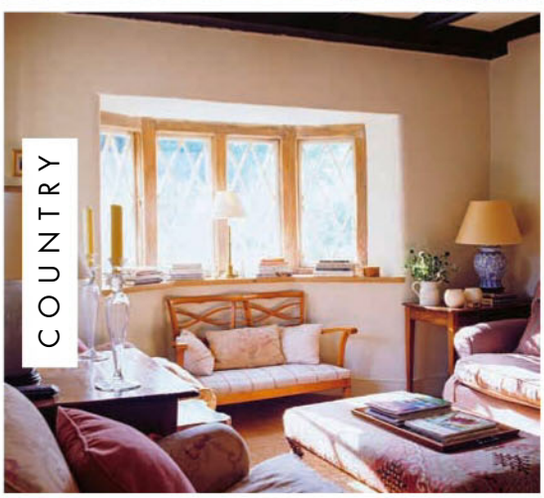
CLASSIC



CONTEMPORARY



BEACHY



COUNTRY



FRAME OF MIND
Ung Drill **frame**,
$29.99, from Ikea.



PETAL TO THE METAL
Metal **tray**, $29.95,
from H&M.



DARK NIGHT
Searchlight touch **table lamp** in Black,
$19, from Masters Home Improvement.



WHAT A PIN-UP
Art Event 2015 **poster** by
Nuria Mora, $14.99, from Ikea.



NOTHING BUT NET
Bateau **glass ball** with net,
$29.95, from Freedom.



QUILT FRANKLY
Quilted **cushion** in Aqua,
$30, from Target.



UPON REFLECTION
Round **mirror** (55cm),
$19, from Kmart



CARRY ON
Jute oversize **basket**,
$29.90, from Zakkia.



CASA NOVA
Casa **frame** in Black, $13, from Harvey Norman.



ELLIS WONDERLAND
Searchlight "Ellis" **lamp** in Cream, $12, from Masters Home Improvement.



CUSHY NUMBER
L'Avenue "Heringbone" **cushion** in Natural, $19.95, from Harvey Norman.



ON THE SIDE
Rian **side table** in Light Green, $19.99, from Ikea.



BLOCK IT OUT
Cushion cover, $19.95, from H&M.



HIGH PERCH
Black **bar stool**, $29, from Kmart.



WANT MORE?
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page to buy selected products for $30 and under!

THE WIRE
Wire **storage hamper** in Yellow, $10, from Kmart.



A GLASS ACT
Spanish recycled glass **vessel**, $7.95, from Super Amart.



GREAT TIMING-
Tilda **wall clock**, $19.95, from Emporium.



FOR A FRILL
Hiccups "Meadow" **cushion** in Rosebud, $29.95 , from Harvey Norman.



NEW FRAMEWORK
Vivienne **frame** in Oak, $9.95, from Freedom.



THAT WOOD BE NICE
Wooden **tray** in Light Beige, $19.95, from H&M. ›

Kitchen



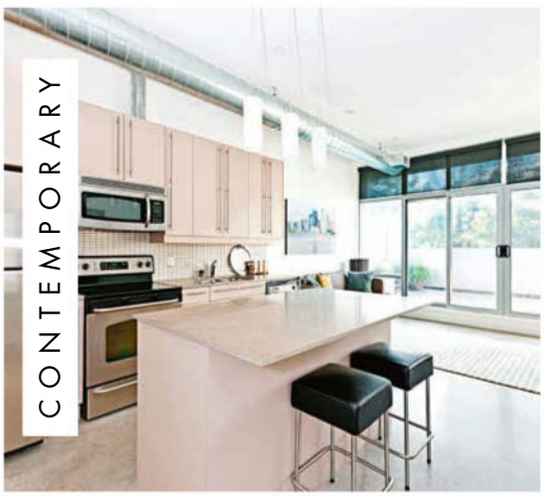
CLASSIC



NEW CAPERS
Aura "Gallery" **napkins** in Caper, $5 for 4, from Harvey Norman.



MARBLE MARVEL
Marble-look **canister** by Me & My Trend, $19.95, from Hard To Find.



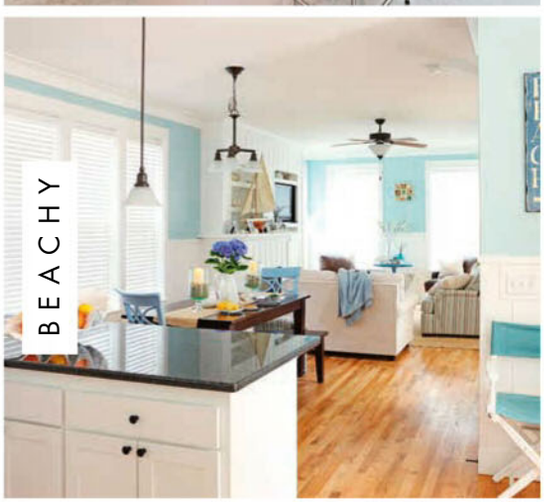
CONTEMPORARY



THAT'S SHARP
Small slice and sharpen **chopping board** in Green, $29.95, from Howards Storage World.



BOTTLE IT UP
Loft White **oil & vinegar set**, $19.95, from Salt & Pepper.



BEACHY



WHAT A CORKER!
365+ **carafes**, $4.99 each, from Ikea.



POUR OVER
Studio **jug** (1.2L), $29.95, from Salt & Pepper.



COUNTRY



EMERALD ENAMEL
real living for Freedom "Adele" **mug** in Emerald, $7.95, from Freedom.



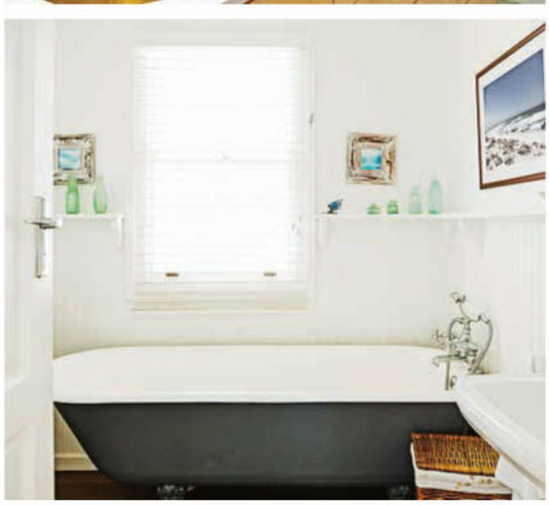
SPLISH SPLASH
Splosh chalkboard **placemats**, $29.95 for 6, from Splosh.

Bathroom











BATH BLISS
Egyptian cotton **bath towels** in Vanilla, $25 each, from Target.



BASKET CASE
Large square **basket**, $14, from Kmart.



IN A LATHER
Satina **soap dispenser**, $29.95, from Domayne.



BEST BUY $29.95

MODERN GLASS
Sanitas glass **scale**, $29.95, from Harvey Norman.



HANG IN THERE
Brio **shower caddy** in Mint, $29.95, from Freedom.



THE NEXT STEP
Bekväm **step ladder**, $14.99, from Ikea.



WANT MORE?
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BEST BUY $14.95

GOLD CLASS
Small wire **basket** in Gold, $14.95, from H&M.

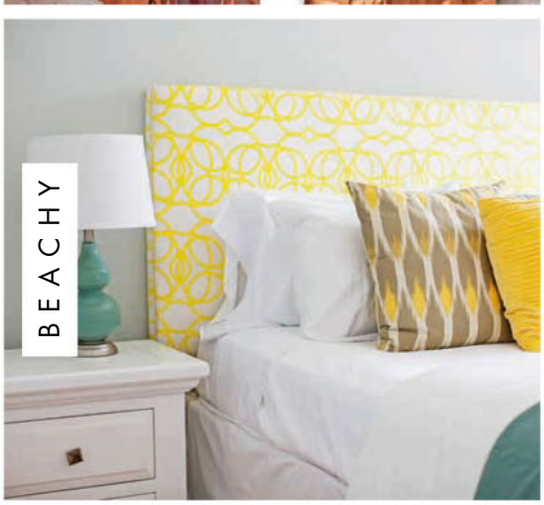


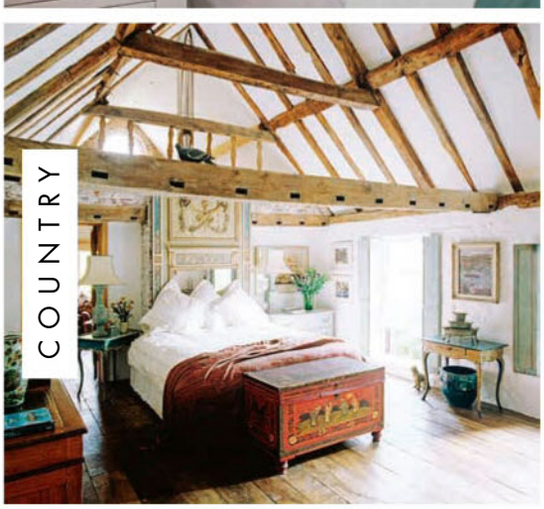
BRUSHING UP
Ceramic **toilet brush holder** in Grey, $29.95, from Howards Storage World. ›

Bedroom











FRAMED!
Zahli **frame** in White/Black,
$29.95, from Freedom.



TIME TO SHINE
Faceted **vase set** in White/Rose Gold,
$29.99 for set of 2, from Typo.



COOL COPPER
Copper and wood **table lamp**,
$20, from Kmart.



SCALLOP STYLE
Vero **cushion**, $22.99,
from Freedom.



KNOW THE ROPES
Urban Nest Designs "Mini Rope" **bowl**
in Aqua, $16.95, from Hard To Find.



TEAL REVEAL
Amalfi "Sari" **frame** in Teal/Ivory,
$22.95, from Zanui.



STRIPED STATEMENT
Cotton **cushion cover** in Light Grey,
$7.95, from H&M.



STILL LIFE
Artificial **tulips** in vase,
$15, from Kmart.



TEXTURE LOVE
Gullklocka **cushion cover** in Grey, $10, from Ikea.



SEEING CLEARLY
Mirror in Gold, $19.95, from H&M.



SOFT & STYLISH
Rapee "Loom" **cushion** in Natural, $12, from Spotlight.



THROWING LIGHT
Hektar wall/clamp **spotlight**, $19.99, from Ikea.



FROM THE SEA
Morgan & Finch "Gloss Bud" **vases** in Aqua Blue & Aqua Green, $3.95 each, from Bed Bath N' Table.



WHAT A STEEL
Hyllis **shelving unit**, $12.99, from Ikea.



WANT MORE?
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page to buy selected products for $30 and under!



SUNSHINE YELLOW
Cotton **cushion cover**, $7.95, from H&M.



AQUA APPEAL
Living Space "Freedom" **vase** in Aqua, $14.99, from Spotlight.



SPILL THRILL
Paint Spot **table lamp** in Blue, $26.95, from Beacon Lighting.



EVERYDAY TREASURES
Fjälla **box** with lid in Off-white, $9.99, from Ikea.



BURN FOR YOU
Elkie **tealight holder** in Brown, $12.95, from Freedom. H+

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LOVE YOUR WORKSPACE

You'll be more productive and creative in a workspace that is both **practical and stylish**. Check out these great ideas...



78% of home workers admit that they would like to create a more fulfilling workspace at home.*



OUR TOP TIP

Magazine files and folders help to keep your space organised – stack them on a shelf to free up extra space on your desk.

90% think their home office lacks style.*

Shop the look



Mira **lamp**, $109.



Linen lever-arch **file**, $12.99.



Light oak **magazine file**, $19.99.



Light oak **pen cup**, $14.99.



A3 kraft **storage box**, $19.99.



Linear **corner workstation**, $296.

OUR TOP TIP

Create an inspiring workspace that you want to spend time in. It could even be a spare corner of a room with a simple slimline desk.

RE-VAMP YOUR ROOM

A fresh coat of paint can completely transform a room. Go for white for a crisp look and add some personality with a colourful canvas artwork.

KEEP YOUR SPACE MINIMAL

Think about how you'll use your space, then get rid of all the stuff you don't need. The less clutter, the more productive you will be.

MAKE IT SUPER-INSPIRING

Store your fave magazines in a rack or holder near your desk and pin inspiring pics to a corkboard.

THINK PRACTICAL STORAGE

Drawers, baskets, trays, folders... you can never have too many!

64% said their home workspace lacks organisation.*



Linen lever-arch **file**, $12.99.

A4 frosted PP 40 pocket display book, $6.99.

OUR TOP TIP

Use filing systems, such as these sleek folders, to keep loose papers neat and tidy.

Fill a simple pot with a green leafy plant, it will be an instant office refresh and will help bring your space to life!



OUR TOP TIP

Store your fave books and mags in a practical yet stylish way, like stacked up in this wooden cupboard.

Linear **cupboard**, $198.

31% of respondents say they have bought more storage items to help keep them organised in their home workspace.*

Go to **officeworks.com.au** for more prices and information or visit your local Officeworks store

Officeworks

*ALL RESULTS USED FOR THIS CAMPAIGN WERE OBTAINED FROM AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ONLINE SURVEY CONDUCTED VIA NINE REWARDS OF N=1,011 PEOPLE WHO EITHER OWN OR OPERATE A SMALL BUSINESS AND/OR WORK FROM HOME AS PART OF THEIR MAIN OCCUPATION.

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Find inspiration at officeworks.com.au/workstyle

A. J.Burrows Assorted Stretch Canvas Pack **$10.98** JBSCTN1612 **B.** Reeves Dorset Easel **$79** JA031228Ø
C. J.Burrows 10 Pack Hog Paint Brushes Round and Flat **$9.88** JA4Ø1246 **D.** J.Burrows 12" Manikin **$16.98** JA4Ø1222
E. J.Burrows Paint 200mL **$8.44ea.** JA4Ø1ØØ8 **F.** J.Burrows Wooden Palette **$4.50** JA4Ø12ØØ

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READERS'

HOMES

(REAL PEOPLE, REAL STYLE)

THREE FABULOUS FAMILY HOMES PLUS SHOW US YOUR HOME TO WIN $1000

SEE HOW ON PAGE 111

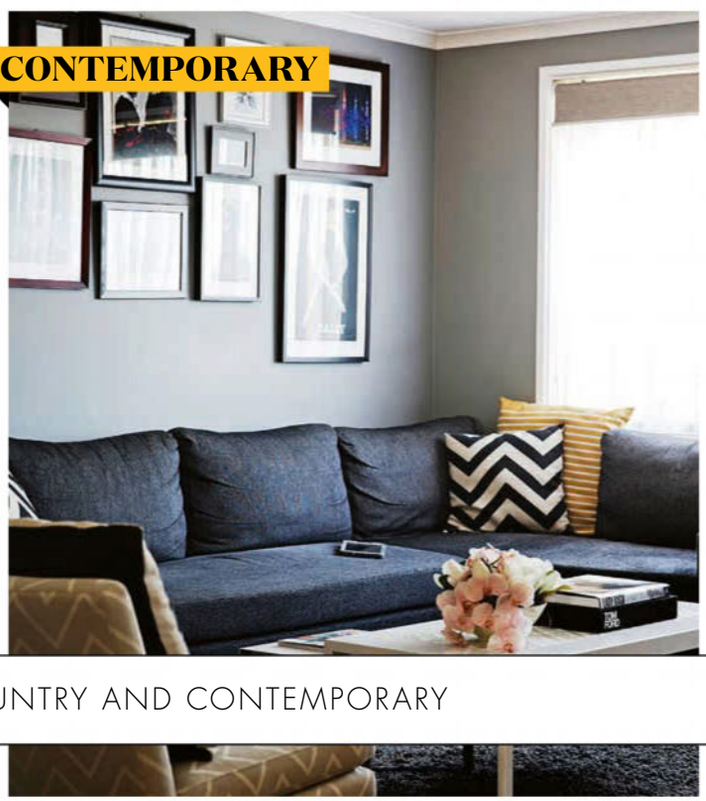
COUNTRY



CLASSIC



CONTEMPORARY



PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER (COUNTRY & CLASSIC); JAMES HENRY (CONTEMPORARY)

THIS MONTH CLASSIC, COUNTRY AND CONTEMPORARY

SHOW US YOUR HOME & WIN $1000
see how on pg 111

CLASSIC HOME **RACHEL RANKIN**

TOUCH OF TRADITION

A love for houses brought this couple together and they've been **happily renovating** ever since.



LIVING ROOM

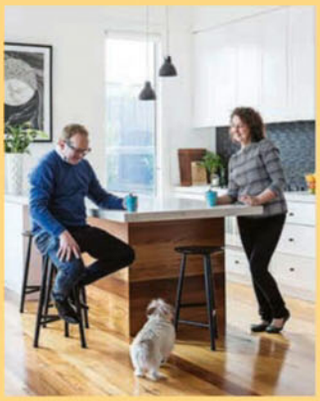
Defined spaces
This living room flows on from the dining space and there's another one in the middle of the home for the kids to hang out.



KITCHEN

Wood works Rachel loves the way the timber flooring continues up the back of the kitchen bench. It matches the dining table perfectly.

MEET RACHEL



About me I'm Rachel Rankin and I'm a mum and renovator. I live here with my husband Marty and my three daughters, Olivia, 18, Gabrielle, 14, and Lily, six. We also have a wire-coat Jack Russell called Jack.

Top tip If you don't love it or it doesn't serve a purpose, get rid of it. I also pick the brains of the staff in homewares shops.

Best buy The hardwood dining room table, which was custom-made by a great local business Quazi Design. I think it is a timeless piece that will stay with us forever.



SEE RACHEL'S PLACE

Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page to see a video of Rachel's timeless home.

TEXT VICTORIA KINGSBURY **PHOTOGRAPHY** MAREE HOMER

RACHEL RANKIN AND HUSBAND Marty share a love of renovating houses and real estate, so it's hardly surprising that the couple first met when Rachel was looking to buy a new house.

"In 2004 I set about finding a house to buy in Yarraville, Victoria, and went into the company Marty was working for," Rachel says. "He said he had a house to show me, which I ended up buying, and Marty and I fell in love – and so the story goes."

After renovating that first property together, Rachel and Marty then renovated another two properties before moving to the house they live in now, also in Yarraville.

"When I saw this property for sale, I rang Marty and said, 'I want that,' it had so much potential and was in a great location," Rachel says.

As with their other houses, this was a major reno job. The home was a very tired single-front Victorian on a wide block with a dated kitchen and bathroom extension to the side, but Rachel had big plans and they went ahead and bought it in September 2012. After a year of plans and amendments, the build began in November 2013. ›

Dark mood
The black bentwood chairs are a modern take on this design classic. The fabric pendant light is from Enrich Interiors.



DINING

TIP
Indoor plants are an easy and affordable way to breathe life into your home.



OUTSIDE

Play time
Daughter Lily plays on her swing from Bunnings – a great idea for city homes.



HALLWAY

Looking up
To add more character and a seamless look, the couple had an extra hallway arch installed.

"I wanted a classic country feel with a deck running around the house."



DETAIL

Make a splash
The matt-black pressed-metal splashback is from Schots Home Emporium.

BUILT TO LAST

"I had a draftee draw up my plans, and my brief was: 'I want a Daylesford house in the city' – a classic country feel with a deck running around the house and garden views from all rooms," Rachel explains.

The couple's previous renovation had been quite modern, so Rachel's approach to this house was to keep it classic.

"We employed a builder [BJR Projects], but I worked alongside him in a project management manner," Rachel says. "The home was pretty much rebuilt. In fact, the only original features to remain were the fireplaces, front window and lacework, which was dipped and resprayed."

The couple paid respect to the Victorian era with cornices, ceiling roses, architraves and period detailing. All the flooring was replaced with wormy chestnut. "I sourced flooring, cabinetry, the new kitchen, tapware, windows, tiles, carpet, doors, etc. My builder and I worked together to create my vision," Rachel says. ›



Silver service
The white textured artwork was made by a friend. The white palette allows the silvers and greys in this room to shine.

LIVING ROOM

RACHEL'S COLOUR SCHEME

MID-GREY
Taubmans Endure paint in **Silver Charm**, $61.90 for 4L.

SKY
Dulux Wash & Wear paint in **Whimsy**, $89.45 for 4L.

BLUSH
Taubmans Endure paint in **Pigtail Pink**, $61.90 for 4L.

LIVING ROOM



GREAT IDEA firewood shelf

Fired up
The smaller living room features a cosy fireplace with original exposed brickwork.

RACHEL'S BEST BUYS



FULL CIRCLE Pendulum **mirror**, $219.99, from Freedom.

LIGHTER SIDE Meyer 1 Light **table lamp**, $209, from Beacon Lighting.

SOFT TOUCH **Cushion** in Mint, $59.95, from Curious Grace.

CLASSIC SEAT Bentwood **chair** in Black, $145, from Connect Furniture.

BASKET CASE Vivid 2-handle **basket**, $69.95, from Freedom. ›

step-by-step make it!

FABRIC BOX WITH LID

You will need Box; fabric (large enough to cover your box with an extra 3cm on each side); ruler; pencil; scissors; spray adhesive; double-sided tape.

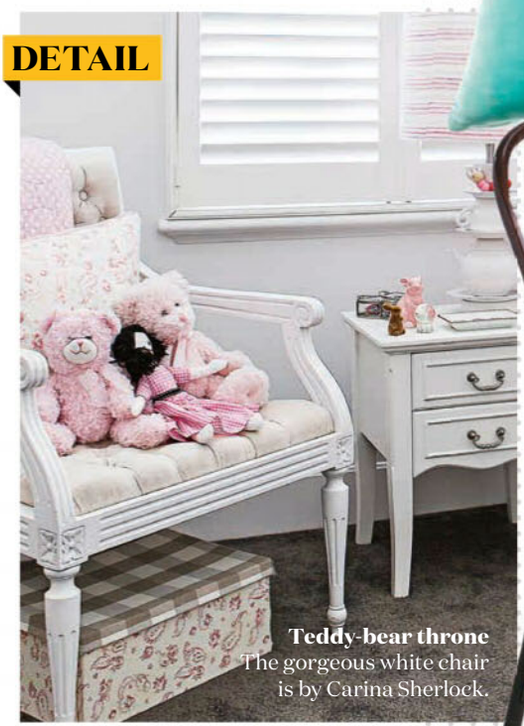
STEP ONE Place box in the centre of piece of fabric. Trace around box to make a rectangle. Draw a straight line along the short edges of the rectangle out to the edge of fabric. Cut along these lines from the edge of the fabric until you meet the rectangle (don't cut the short sides of your rectangle).

STEP TWO Spray the bottom of the box with adhesive and place on the traced rectangle.

STEP THREE Spray sides of box with adhesive. Pull one short side of fabric up the box and wrap excess flaps around long sides. Fold top of fabric inside the box; adhere with double-sided tape. Repeat on other short side, then long sides.

STEP FOUR Repeat process for the lid, in a contrasting fabric if you like.

DETAIL



Teddy-bear throne
The gorgeous white chair is by Carina Sherlock.

SHOP THE PAGE
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BATHROOM

Relaxing retreat
The textured wall tiles in the ensuite are in Basket Weave from Elegance Tiles.



BEDROOM

Teen dream
In Gabrielle's room, the blush, white and charcoal bedlinen perfectly suits a $60 artwork from Bali.



KID'S BEDROOM

Pink palace
Lily's room includes pieces given to Rachel by a friend.



Splash of style
The spacious bathroom has a large bath from Bathroom Warehouse. Linen-look floor tiles give a luxe finish.

"It's a modern take on a classic – earthy with a touch of glam."

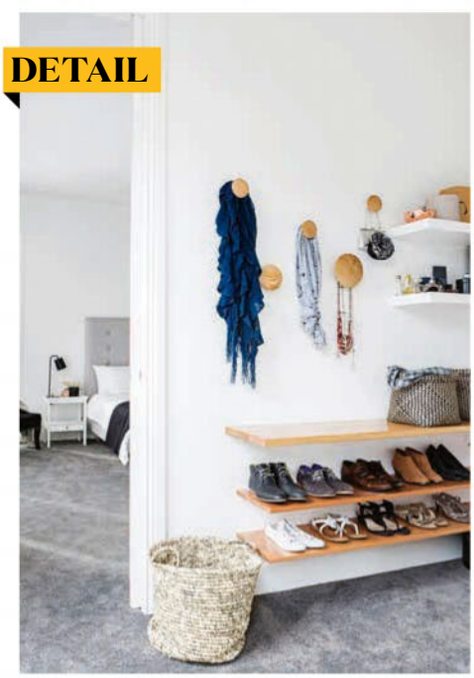
BATHROOM

For the interiors, Rachel wanted a crisp scheme of white (she used Dulux "Lexicon Quarter") with some hints of black to add depth and interest. And while she wanted to keep those pretty Victorian details, Rachel also liked the idea of adding a few modern twists too.

"It's a modern take on a classic – earthy with a touch of glam," she says of her style. "I keep the main big-ticket pieces very neutral and add some splashes of colour – I love bits of black to pop, like the kitchen splashback, which is pressed metal painted in matt black."

So, will this be the last renovation? "My friends don't believe me when I say we won't be moving again," she says. "In the past I've said that, but after a couple of years I got the urge to do it again. Renovating is like childbirth... after a few months you've forgotten the pain and could do it again." H+

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DETAIL

Dress-ups
"I love our dressing room. I keep jewellery, shoes, belts, perfume here – everything you need to get ready," Rachel says.



Sleep tight
In the master bedroom, the king-size bed and bedhead were custom-made from Dwell.

TIP
Use different shades of the same colour in a room to create subtle contrast.

MASTER BEDROOM

SHOW US YOUR HOME & WIN $1000
see how on pg 111

KITCHEN



Wish fulfilled
Cecilia customised the Ikea "Bosse" bar stools by adding cushions for comfort. The tiled splashback is from Urban Tiles.

COUNTRY HOME **CECILIA HILAL**

MEETING **PLACE**

A neglected colonial-style home receives a **cool and cosy makeover.**



Homely feel Berry Kitchens made the French Provincial kitchen island, while the pendant lights are from Beyond Bright.

TEXT STEPHANIE HOPE **PHOTOGRAPHY** MAREE HOMER

IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT when Cecilia and her husband Adrian spied this colonial-style house from the street three years ago. "It seemed so sweet and quaint," says Cecilia, although, on closer inspection they soon realised it would need a bit of work.

"The property was a train wreck," she says. "It had structural issues and had been vacant for more than eight months with no one maintaining the gardens." But the couple could see the home's potential, not to mention its family-friendly position in a quiet cul-de-sac in the Sydney suburb of Acacia Gardens, so they snapped it up without any hesitation.

RENOVATOR'S DREAM

Before they could move in with their two boys, Gabriel and Ethan (daughter Adriana was not yet born), Cecilia and Adrian had to undertake some major renovations. "We installed a new kitchen, new flooring and new bathrooms, painted and knocked out walls, and added window treatments," says Cecilia of the changes, which took just under six months complete. With that done, the young family ›

MEET CECILIA



About me Hi, my name is Cecilia, and I live here with my husband Adrian and our kids Gabriel, six, Ethan, three, and Adriana, eight months, plus our mini Jack Russell-foxy, Cotton.
Top tip Wallpaper or paint can be so effective if you're wanting to give a room a fresh update on a budget – more so than a piece of furniture, and usually a fraction of the price!
Best buy The two white wingback armchairs in our living room. They are usually very expensive, but we found an affordable alternative at Ikea.



SEE MORE
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page to watch a video of Cecilia showing us her country-style home.



Family moments
Frames from Target display treasured family photos, and make a nice display above the stairs.

HALLWAY



HALLWAY

If the shoe fits
The shoe cabinet from Ikea provides easy storage for the family's footwear. The large clock – also from Ikea – adds a classic touch.

"Our home has a lot of natural timber accents and the style is very light and free-flowing."



LIVING ROOM

Loving revival
A simple coat of whitewash gave the couple's existing coffee table a new lease on life.

could now move in, although Cecilia has big plans for the future, including an extension and a larger master suite – "hopefully with a big walk-in robe and bathroom where I can sit and do my make-up in peace!" she laughs.

EVOLVING STYLE

Cecilia says her tastes tend to change over time. "When we started, I loved French Provincial style, but as time has passed I would say I now lean towards the Hamptons feel – very fresh and homely," she says.

Much of the home's decor has been sourced from the likes of Kmart, Ikea and bargain shops, while Cecilia also loves shopping online at Temple & Webster and looking for on-trend pieces at Freedom. She swears by Masters Home Improvement, too. ›



Cosy cove
Cecilia names the gas fireplace as her favourite feature in the home. The mantelpiece was made by Adrian and herself.

LIVING ROOM

GREAT IDEA
firewood display



Sofa, so good
The leather couch from Plush is comfy and stylish. Floor-to-ceiling shutters provide light and privacy.

LIVING ROOM

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We love to hear from you! See our posts on Facebook and comment on who did it best or whether you'd pick #thisorthat.

"I lean towards the Hamptons feel – very fresh and homely."

FINISHING TOUCHES

Major renovations aside, Cecilia also added some lovely finishes to their home, from the cool floor tiles from Urban Tiles that flow throughout the living areas, to the timber flooring from Timber Accents in the bedrooms, and the plantation shutters on all the windows, which she says "give a nice curbside appeal from outside".

But the pièce de résistance is the cosy gas fireplace that was installed in the formal living area. "We all love it!" Cecilia says. "It heats our whole house and is very easy to turn on and off without needing to cut any timber." Understandably, the family naturally gravitates to this cosy room.

"The kids will set themselves up around the fireplace, watching TV and playing with their toys or drawing," Cecilia adds. While at night, "Adrian and I always sit together with a coffee and have a chat after we've wrestled all the kids into bed." Sounds blissful! H+

LIVING ROOM



Shelf life
Billy bookcases from Ikea display a collection of quirky accessories. The dachshund book ends are from Kmart.

BATHROOM



Fresh foliage
A $9 potted fern from Kmart lifts the otherwise neutral bathroom.

LAUNDRY



Supersize me
A bench and floating shelves from Ikea make use of the small space. Laundry baskets from The Reject Shop. ›



Childhood treasures
Floating shelves from The Reject Shop house keepsakes that once belonged to Cecilia.

DETAIL

Apricot delight
Cecilia chose an apricot and grey colour palette for Adriana's nursery, and sourced the Boori cot from Baby Kingdom.

KID'S BEDROOM

step-by-step make it!

CHEVRON-PAINTED WALL

You will need 2 x paint colours; ruler; pencil; painter's tape; paint roller and small paintbrush.

STEP ONE Paint your chosen wall with the lighter of the two paint colours and leave to dry. Apply second coat.

STEP TWO Use ruler and pencil to mark out a chevron pattern on the wall, measuring as you go to ensure it stays at an even height along the wall.

STEP THREE Apply tape along marked lines, then paint every second zig zag with remaining paint colour. Allow to dry, then apply second coat.

STEP FOUR Once paint is completely dry, carefully peel away the tape, touching up any spots where needed.



DIPPED IN Brooklyn **pillar stand** in Black, $12, from Target.

SUPER SOFT Tejn faux **sheepskin** in White, $19.99, from Ikea.



FRINGED EDGES **real living** for Freedom "Cosy Up" **throw** in Green, $99, from Freedom.

CECILIA'S BEST BUYS



HARDWOOD TIMBER New England **coffee table** in Light Walnut, $369.95, from Super Amart.

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MASTER BEDROOM

Dream time
A decorative bedhead bought overseas provides an interesting focal point, along with the textured blue bedlinen from Aldi.

TIP
A valance creates the feeling of luxury, and also helps to keep dust out from under the bed.

CECILIA'S COLOUR SCHEME

SMOKE
Haymes Interior Expressions paint in **Inner Depth**, $69.95 for 4L.

APRICOT
Porter's Paints Eggshell Acrylic paint in **Sweet Pea**, $95.10 for 4L.

GREIGE
Dulux Wash & Wear paint in **Beige Royal Quarter**, $74.95 for 4L.

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see how on pg 111

CONTEMPORARY HOME **JET CHESHIRE**

MODERN **MAN**

This couple's home is a quiet oasis of calm thanks to its **cool colour palette**, open layout and nostalgic decor.

DINING

Power of three
A trio of pendant lights from Beacon Lighting visually separate the living and dining areas.



Party place Homeowner Jet stands in the paved undercover area, which is used frequently for entertaining.

DINING

WHEN HAIRSTYLIST JET and his partner Joey, a public servant, first came across this humble home on the outskirts of Canberra three years ago, they were immediately drawn to its amazing outdoor entertaining space and the quiet, convenient location. "The property was in a lovely condition, but not in our preferred colour palette," Jet recalls. "And there were a few layout issues, too."

But it was nothing that couldn't be fixed, and the boys quickly sank their teeth into making the house their own, removing a slow-combustion fireplace to open up the living area, knocking through a wall to gain access to the laundry and giving all the walls a fresh coat of paint. In total, these tweaks took them just two days to complete!

EASY ENTERTAINER

With its open-plan layout and great outdoor space, the home really offers the best of both worlds for Jet and Joey, who love to entertain. In winter, they'll hold movie nights in their spacious living room, and in the warmer months, they take things outside for drinks and barbecues. ›

MEET JET



About me My name is Jet, and I live here with my partner of 11 years, Joey.
Top tip I love to mix and match high-end pieces with inexpensive items. Don't be afraid to spend a little more on timeless, good-quality pieces that will last years. If you break it down by cost per use, it works out better than constantly replacing things with a cheap alternative.
Best buy The vintage ironing board in the entranceway that I bought in Tasmania. I love taking old pieces and breathing new life into them.



SEE JET'S PLACE
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page to see a video of Jet showing us his contemporary home.

TEXT STEPHANIE HOPE **PHOTOGRAPHY** JAMES HENRY



Seasonal updates
Patterned cushions add interest against the charcoal coloured sofa from King Living.

SHOP THE PAGE
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Vintage bargain
Jet bagged the retro wooden and glass cabinet on Gumtree for $100. It houses the boys' collection of coffee-table books.



PERFECT TIMING
Retro metal **wall clock** with timer in 50s Blue, $79, from Milan Direct.

JET'S BEST BUYS

ZIG & ZAG
Chevron **cushion cover** in Black (45cm), $29, from Cush & Co.

COOL CHARCOAL
Hektar **floor lamp** in Dark Grey, $79, from Ikea.

"I love collecting interior decorating and fashion coffee-table books for inspiration and reference."

The outdoor area was also used to host a very special celebration for the boys. "For our 10-year anniversary party, we had a gazebo set up on the grassed area, which seated 30 friends," Jet says.

When it's just the two of them, Jet says you'll find him and Joey "chilling on the lounge, listening to vinyl records or sitting outside in the sun with a coffee. We love that once we get in the door, it's a quiet haven for us to relax and unwind in."

GREY MATTER

The boys' chosen colour palette is mostly greys – "the darker the better," says Jet – with some white and yellow accents to break it up. Overall, chief decorator Jet describes his style as "clean and modern with a mix of vintage, but still masculine. I like to keep things classic and just update elements such as lampshades, cushions or frames over time."

The master bedroom is an excellent example of this contemporary style, with its masculine brown-leather bedhead, dark-wooden bedside tables and simple grey and w hite bedlinen. A few homemade touches personalise the room, such as the eye-catching artwork above the bed – Jet made it by stretching a piece of fabric across a canvas. He also added some metallic brocade tassels to the bedsides to break up the dark timber. ›



LIVING ROOM

GREAT IDEA
salon-style art

Eclectic frames
A collection of black and white prints, vintage *New York Times* covers and iconic imagery provides a striking twist on traditional family portraits.

KITCHEN



Nifty display
Pre-existing shelves on the kitchen island are used to display a quirky collection of objects, books and knick-knacks.

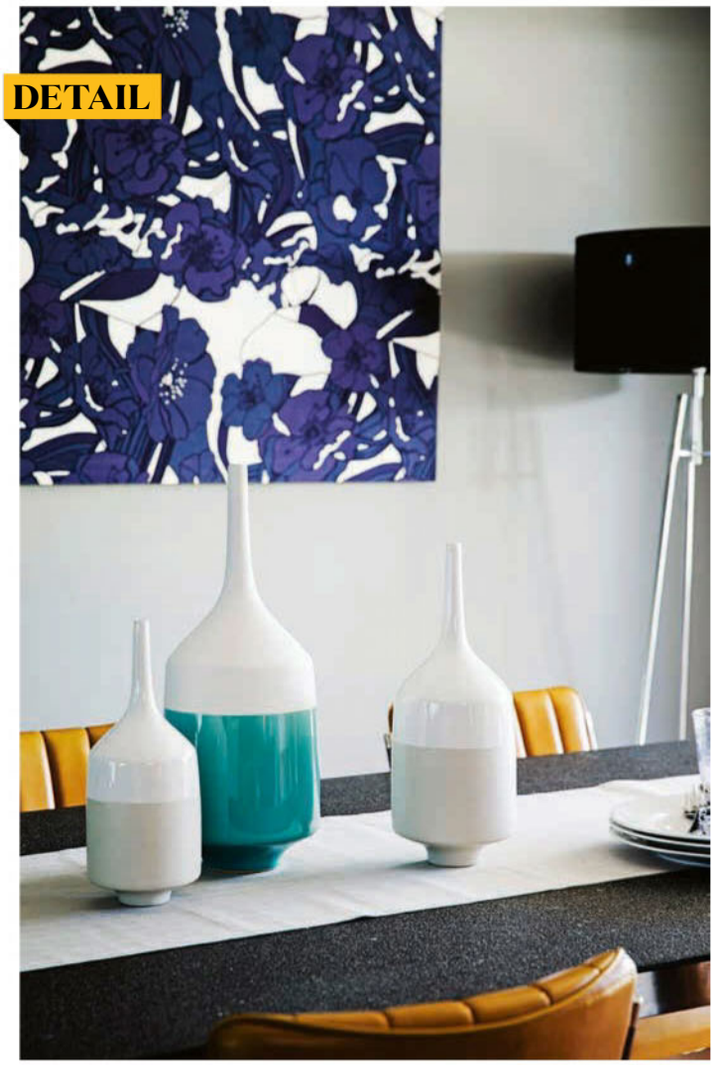
TIP
Floorboards laid lengthways creates the illusion of a larger space.

JET'S COLOUR SCHEME

SMOKY GREY
Murobond Murowash paint in **Tumbleweed**, $93 for 4L.

MUSTARD
Haymes Interior Expressions paint in **Free Range**, $69.95 for 4L.

NAVY
Dulux Wash & Wear paint in **Harbourmaster**, $89.45 for 4L.



Dine with me
A recycled glass and metal table from Early Settler is topped with a simple white runner and three shapely vases from Freedom.



Fabulous find
The old ironing board was originally painted forest green. Now the zesty yellow pops in the entranceway.



Sunshine seating
The mustard-yellow seats were sourced from a vintage shop and the lone leather and timber chair was discovered on the side of the road.

"We try to mix in vintage pieces wherever we can without making the house look like a museum."

SEASONED SHOPPER

While modern style was a major theme for Jet, he was careful to scatter pieces from the past to achieve an overall contemporary look. To do so, he made clever use of pieces gifted to him. A vintage chair passed down from his grandparents was recovered in black and white striped fabric, and now makes a statement in the second bedroom. A hide rug was given to him by his mother. Jet also honours the past by displaying the dinosaur toys that he loved as a child in the living room cabinet and on the vintage ironing board in the hallway, providing a quirky touch.

And when he is unable to find that perfect piece, Jet is adept at creating what he wants. On the side table of the master bedroom, he fashioned a white clay bowl by rolling clay over a dessert bowl and allowing it to dry. ›



MASTER BEDROOM

Dark & handsome
"We wanted a dark, masculine, clean and minimal look for the bedroom," says Jet.

step-by-step make it!

FABRIC-COVERED CANVAS

You will need: Fabric; canvas; fabric scissors; staple gun and staples.

STEP ONE Place canvas on top of your fabric and cut around the frame, leaving about 4cm of material on each side.
STEP TWO Fold fabric over one side of the canvas then staple.
STEP THREE Repeat step two on the opposite side, making sure fabric remains taut.
STEP FOUR Fold and staple the last two sides.
STEP FIVE Pull the fabric on the corners up and fold to the side, creating a diagonal crease along one side. Staple each corner.

TIP Try adding embellishments such as chains or ribbons. Using a hot-glue gun, add hot glue to one end of the chain then let it dry. When gluing the other side, hold the chain taut while it dries or else it will loosen and sag.



BEDROOM

What a pair
Two zebra canvases from Kmart were hung next to each other for a quirky feature.



BATHROOM

Heaven scent
A SoyBoy candle – the boys' own range – creates a beautifully scented haven.

MODERN MIX

It's in vintage pieces that Jet's artful ability to mix the old with the new really comes to the fore. He picks up inexpensive seasonal buys such as cushions, rugs, artworks and lampshades from stores including Freedom, Pillow Talk, Kmart and Ikea, but vintage stores – and even the side of the road – are where he usually finds his most prized treasures. "I love shopping for unique and interesting vintage finds for our home," Jet says. He also loves transforming pieces of furniture to suit his personal style. "It's fun to make a one-off piece that no one else has."

However, Jet's all-time fave bargain buy is the set of six mustard leather dining chairs. "They were only $30 each and in mint condition!" he says. H+

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EASY FOOD

(QUICK MEALS FOR THE MONTH)



EASY MONTHLY MEAL PLANNER & SWEET TREAT

Easy cheesy Try these tasty tuna cheese crust pies (p72) for a great-value meal. ›

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THIS MONTH HEARTY RECIPES THAT WON'T BLOW THE BUDGET

MAKE IT YOURSELF

A MONTH OF **MEALS**

It's hard to be inspired about dinner on a cold night, but our **hearty recipes** will ignite your imagination and keep your family happy, healthy and satisfied.



WEEK 1

18 MINS

MONDAY

MEATBALL PIZZAS

SERVES 4 **PREP** 10 MINUTES
COOK 8-10 MINUTES **$2.95 PER SERVE**

2 ready-made pizza bases
150g tub Moroccan dip
200g ready-made meatballs, broken into chunks
1 cup drained chargrilled capsicum slices
100g fetta cheese, crumbled
Natural yoghurt, dukkah (see tip) and chopped parsley, to serve

STEP 1 Preheat oven to hot, 200°C (180°C fan forced). Line 2 oven trays with baking paper.
STEP 2 Place a base on each tray. Spread each evenly with dip.
STEP 3 Top evenly with meatball chunks, capsicum and fetta. Bake for 8-10 minutes until bases are golden and cheese melts.
STEP 4 Serve topped with a dollop of natural yoghurt, sprinkling of dukkah and chopped parsley.

TIP Dukkah is an Egyptian mix of dried and blended nuts, spices and seeds. You can get it from supermarkets and specialty grocers.

TUESDAY



CREAMY SPINACH & POTATO SOUP

SERVES 4 **PREP** 15 MINUTES
COOK 35 MINUTES **$3.10 PER SERVE**

1 tablespoon olive oil
2 rashers rindless bacon, chopped
1 onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, crushed
3 potatoes, peeled, chopped
2 bunches English spinach, trimmed, chopped
6 cups chicken stock
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg, plus extra to sprinkle
Salt and pepper
¼ cup cream
Crusty bread, to serve

STEP 1 In a large saucepan heat oil on high. Cook bacon for 2-3 minutes until crisp, then remove from pan. Set aside.
STEP 2 Gently fry onion and garlic in the same pan for 2-3 minutes until onion is tender.
STEP 3 Add potatoes and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Mix in spinach and pour over stock. Add nutmeg and season to taste. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low. Simmer, partially covered, for 20-25 minutes until potatoes are tender.
STEP 4 Using a hand blender (or food processor), blend until smooth. Reheat gently. Serve with a swirl of cream, a sprinkling of bacon and a dusting of nutmeg. Accompany with crusty bread.

TIP Swap English spinach for silverbeet or kale if preferred. Add a little cream or milk to the soup to thin out and enrich if desired.

WEDNESDAY



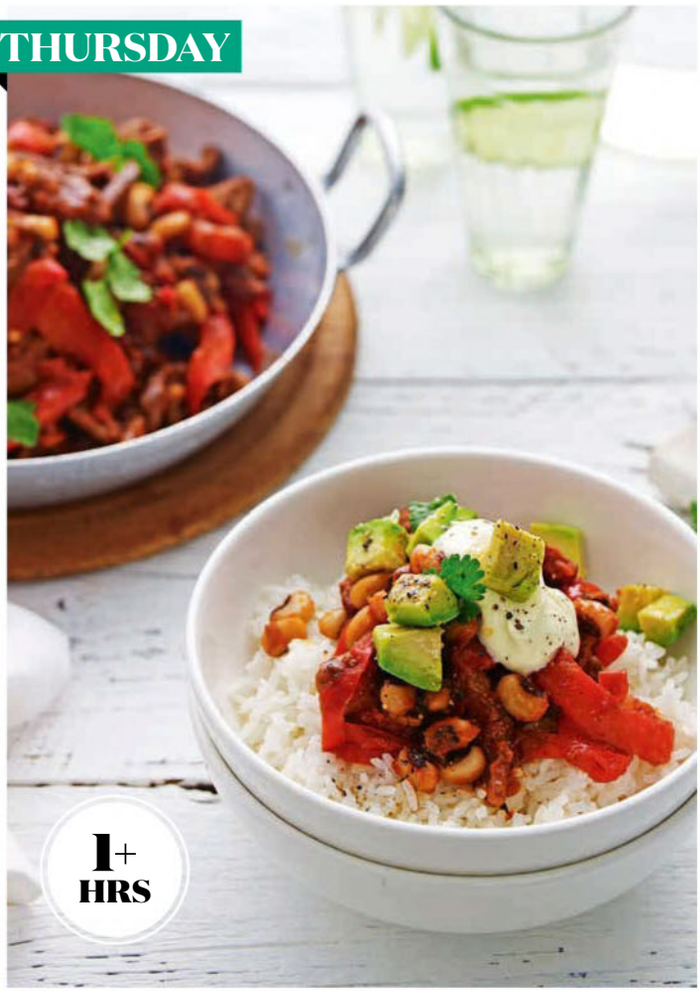
FAMILY SHEPHERD'S PIE

SERVES 4 **PREP** 20 MINUTES
COOK 1 HOUR **$3.80 PER SERVE**

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, crushed
500g beef mince
450g tomato passata
125g mushrooms, sliced
1 celery stalk, chopped
1 carrot, chopped
1 zucchini, chopped
2 cups beef stock or water
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
TOPPING
4 medium potatoes, peeled
2 parsnips, peeled
Salt and pepper
1 cup grated tasty cheese
Crusty bread and vegetables of your choice, to serve

STEP 1 In a large frying pan, heat oil on high. Gently fry onion and garlic for 2-3 minutes until tender. Add mince and cook for 5-6 minutes, breaking up lumps, until evenly browned.
STEP 2 Stir in passata, vegetables, stock and sauce. Simmer for 35-40 minutes, stirring occasionally, until reduced.
STEP 3 Preheat oven to moderate, 180°C (160°C fan forced).
STEP 4 TOPPING Meanwhile, place potatoes and parsnips in a large saucepan and cover with cold water. Bring to boil on high and cook for 20-25 minutes, until tender. Drain well and mash. Season to taste.
STEP 5 Spoon mince mixture into 6-cup casserole dish. Spread over mash, roughing up surface with a fork. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake for 15-20 minutes until golden and bubbling. Serve with crusty bread and vegetables of choice. ›

THURSDAY



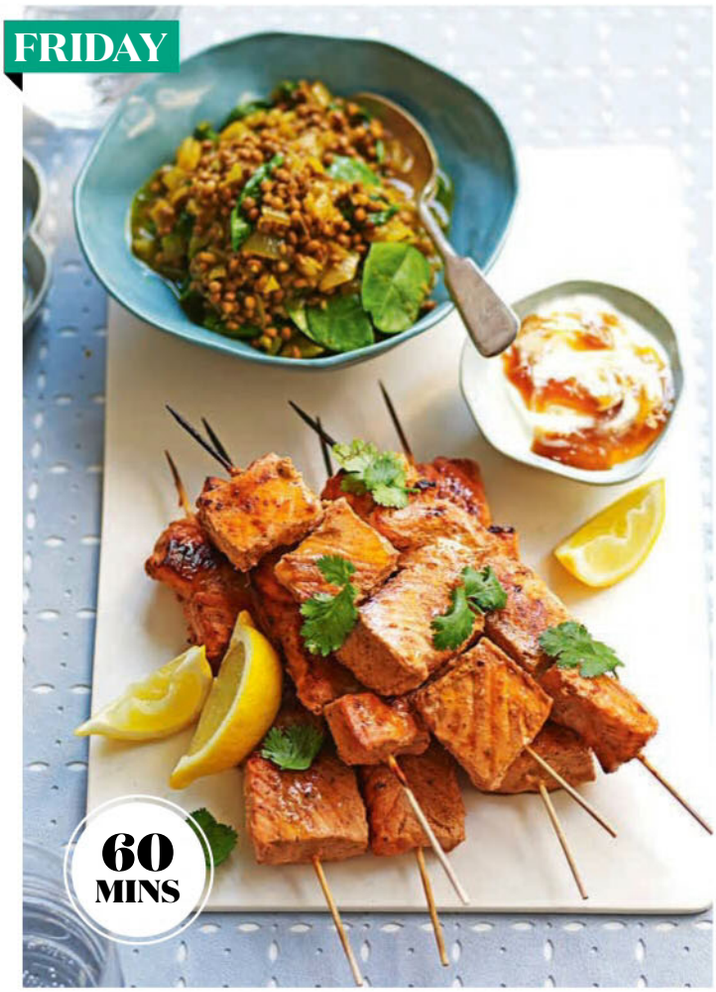
CHILLI CON CARNE WITH BLACK-EYED BEANS

SERVES 4 **PREP** 20 MINUTES (PLUS SOAKING)
COOK 1 HOUR 10 MINUTES **$3.40 PER SERVE**

2 tablespoons oil
1 chorizo, finely chopped
1 onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
500g blade steak, trimmed, finely chopped
1 red capsicum, seeded, chopped
1 long red chilli, thinly sliced
2 teaspoons ground cumin
2 teaspoons chopped oregano
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1½ cups beef stock
1½ cups tomato passata
1 cup black-eyed beans, soaked overnight
Coriander leaves, steamed rice, chopped avocado, sour cream and cracked black pepper, to serve

STEP 1 Heat oil in a large saucepan on high. Gently fry chorizo, onion and garlic for 4-5 minutes until onion is tender. Add beef. Cook, stirring, for 3-4 minutes until browned.
STEP 2 Add capsicum, chilli and spices. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes.
STEP 3 Stir in stock, passata and drained beans. Bring to the boil on high. Reduce heat to low and simmer, covered, for about 45-50 minutes until meat is tender.
STEP 4 Simmer for a further 5 minutes. Sprinkle with coriander and serve with rice, avocado, sour cream and black pepper, if liked.

FRIDAY



TANDOORI SALMON SKEWERS WITH LENTILS & SPINACH

SERVES 4 **PREP** 30 MINUTES
COOK 30 MINUTES **$7.10 PER SERVE**

1 cup Greek-style yoghurt
1 tbsp tandoori paste
750g skinless salmon fillet, cubed
2 tbsp olive oil
1 small onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon, plus extra wedges to serve
3 green cardamom pods, bruised
3 whole cloves, lightly bruised
2 tsp curry powder
400g can lentils, rinsed, drained
1 cup vegetable stock
60g baby spinach
⅓ cup coriander leaves
Mango chutney, warmed, to serve

STEP 1 In a bowl, combine ½ cup yoghurt and paste in a bowl. Coat salmon in mixture; thread onto 8 soaked bamboo skewers.
STEP 2 In a large frying pan, heat oil on medium. Add onion, garlic, zest and spices to pan. cook, stirring, 3-5 minutes until onion softens.
STEP 3 Stir in lentils to coat in oil mixture. Pour in stock and bring to boil. Simmer 2-3 minutes until thickened slightly. Remove from heat and set aside. Mix spinach through. Cover and set aside for 3 minutes until spinach wilts. Add coriander and lemon juice.
STEP 4 Meanwhile, preheat grill on high. Place salmon skewers on a foil-lined oven tray. Grill for 6-8 minutes, turning once, until lightly charred and cooked through. Serve with lentils, mango chutney, remaining yoghurt and lemon wedges.

WEEK 2

MONDAY

STIR-FRIED MEATBALLS IN OYSTER SAUCE

SERVES 4 **PREP** 15 MINUTES
COOK 15 MINUTES **$2.95 PER SERVE**

2 tablespoons oil
400g ready-made meatballs
1 onion, sliced
1 red capsicum, seeded, chopped
300g broccoli, cut into florets
1 teaspoon ginger
1 garlic clove, crushed
450g fresh hokkien noodles
Sliced green onions and sesame seeds, to serve
SAUCE
¼ cup soy sauce
¼ cup Chinese shao hsing cooking wine
2 tablespoons oyster sauce

STEP 1 Heat half the oil in a wok or large frying pan on high. Stir-fry meatballs for 4-5 minutes until well browned. Transfer to a plate.
STEP 2 Heat remaining oil in wok. Stir-fry onion and capsicum for 3-4 minutes until tender. Add broccoli, ginger and garlic, and stir-fry for 1 minute.
STEP 3 SAUCE In a small jug mix all ingredients together.
STEP 4 Return meatballs to wok with sauce. Bring to simmer, cooking for 3-4 minutes until sauce thickens slightly.
STEP 5 Add noodles and toss well. Sprinkle with green onions and sesame seeds to serve. ›





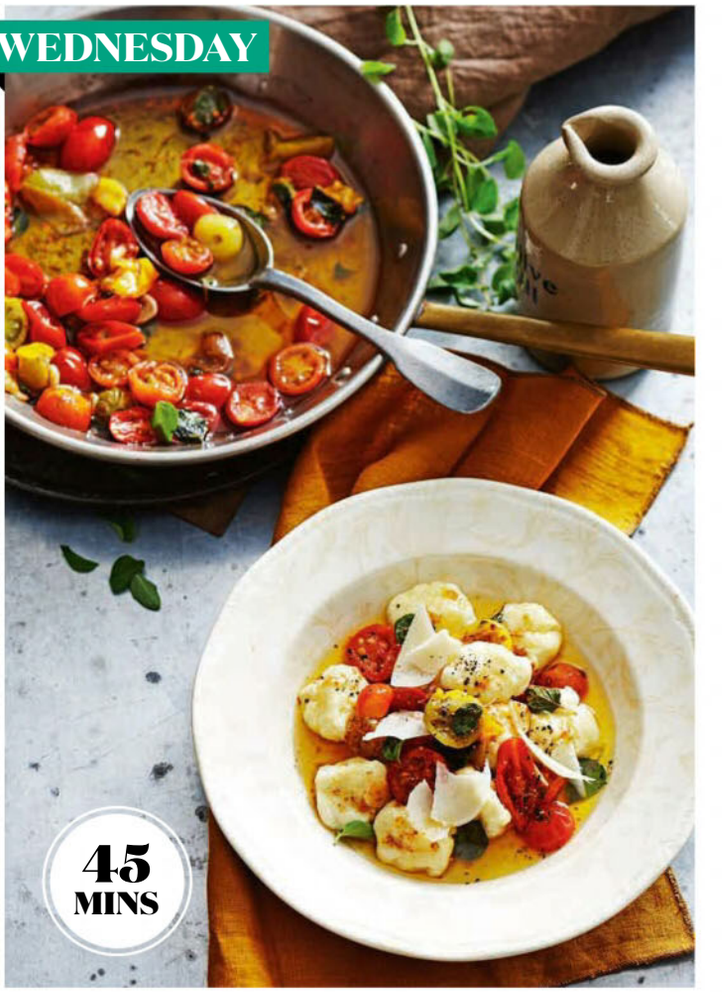
COUNTRY EGG & BACON PIE

SERVES 4 **PREP** 10 MINUTES (PLUS CHILLING)
COOK 35 MINUTES **$2.40 PER SERVE**

1 sheet frozen shortcrust pastry
¼ cup tomato chutney
1 onion, finely sliced
3 rashers rindless bacon, halved lengthways
½ cup grated tasty cheese
8 eggs
Salt and pepper
Parsley leaves, to serve

STEP 1 Preheat oven to moderate, 180°C (160°C fan forced).
STEP 2 Lightly roll pastry sheet out with a rolling pin to fit a 25cm pie dish. Ease pastry into pie dish, crimping edges. Chill for 15 minutes.
STEP 3 Spread chutney over pastry base. Scatter over onion, bacon and cheese.
STEP 4 Break eggs evenly over filling, pushing aside ingredients to allow eggs to seep into the base. Season to taste.
STEP 5 Bake for 30-35 minutes until filling sets and pastry turns golden. Scatter with parsley to serve.

TIP Swap tomato chutney for caramelised onion relish if preferred. It is important to rest the pastry after rolling it to fit the pan to help prevent shrinking during baking.

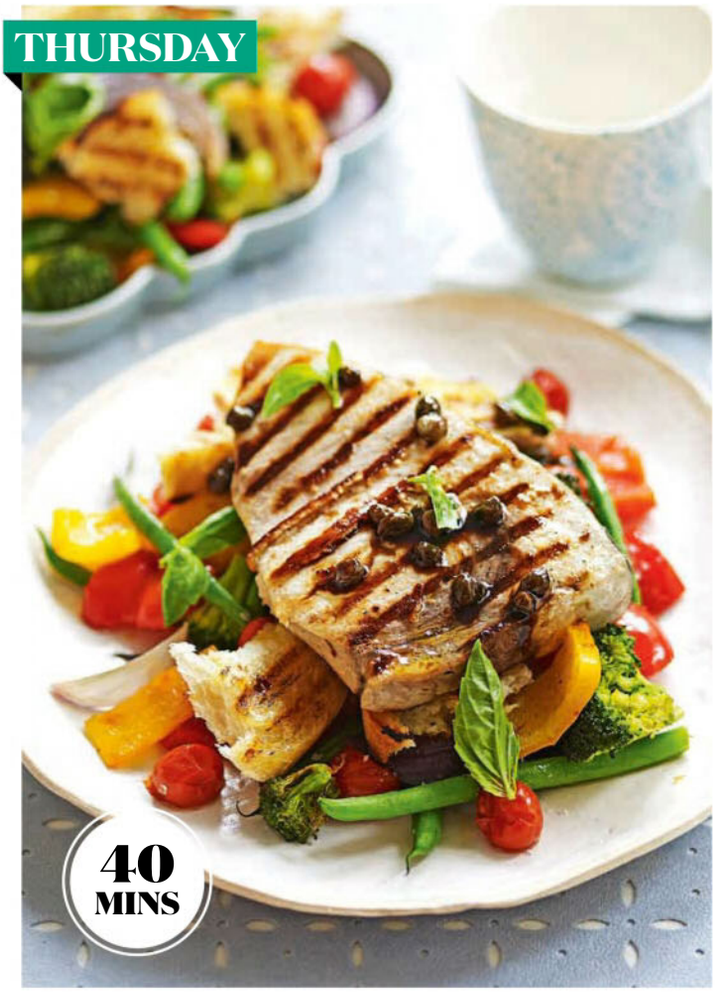


RICOTTA GNOCCHI WITH HEIRLOOM TOMATOES

SERVES 4 **PREP** 25 MINUTES (PLUS CHILLING)
COOK 20 MINUTES **$3.80 PER SERVE**

500g fresh ricotta
60g fetta, crumbled
¼ cup grated parmesan, plus extra, shaved, to serve
1 egg, lightly beaten
½ cup plain flour, plus extra for dusting
Salt and pepper
SAUCE
125g butter, chopped
¼ cup olive oil
650g mix medley tomatoes, halved
2 garlic cloves, finely sliced
¼ cup oregano leaves

STEP 1 In a food processor, combine ricotta, fetta, parmesan and egg. Process until smooth. Add flour and pulse until combined.
STEP 2 Transfer to a bowl and season to taste. Cover and chill for 1½ hours. Lightly dust a tray with extra flour. Shape ricotta into walnut-sized (about 2 teaspoons) balls and place in single layer on tray. Dust with extra flour.
STEP 3 Bring a large saucepan of salted water to the boil. In 2 batches, gently lower gnocchi into boiling water. Cook gnocchi for 4-5 minutes until floating and just cooked through. Remove using a slotted spoon.
STEP 4 SAUCE Meanwhile, in a large frying pan, heat butter and oil on medium until butter begins to turn light brown at edges. Add tomatoes and garlic, and cook for 2-3 minutes to heat through. Stir in oregano.
STEP 5 Divide gnocchi among serving plates. Spoon over tomato mixture. Serve topped with shaved parmesan.



WARM PANZANELLA SALAD WITH SWORDFISH

SERVES 4 **PREP** 15 MINUTES
COOK 25 MINUTES **$8.20 PER SERVE**

1 red capsicum, seeded, chopped
1 yellow capsicum, seeded, chopped
2 cups broccoli florets
1 red onion, thin wedges
250g punnet cherry tomatoes
¼ cup olive oil
Salt and pepper
100g green beans, trimmed, blanched
4 swordfish steaks (or other fish of choice)
4 slices sourdough bread
1 garlic clove, halved
½ cup torn basil leaves
1 tbsp baby capers
1 tbsp balsamic vinegar

STEP 1 Preheat oven to hot, 200°C. Line 2 oven trays with baking paper. In large bowl, toss capsicums, broccoli, onion and tomatoes with 2 tbsp oil. Season to taste.
STEP 2 Spread vegetables in a single layer on one tray. Bake for 20-25 minutes until starting to soften. Add beans and bake for a further 5 minutes. Remove from oven. Cover and keep warm.
STEP 3 Place fish on second tray. Spray with olive oil. Bake for 8-10 minutes until just cooked.
STEP 4 Preheat a chargrill pan on high. Rub bread with cut side of garlic and spray with olive oil. Chargrill bread for 1-2 minutes each side until lightly charred and crispy. Transfer to a plate. Cool, then tear into chunks.
STEP 5 In a bowl, combine vegetables, torn bread, basil leaves, capers, vinegar and remaining oil in large bowl, tossing gently. Serve swordfish with panzanella salad.

TIP Tear the basil leaves just before serving to prevent discolouring.



RIBOLLITA

SERVES 4 **PREP** 20 MINUTES
COOK 35 MINUTES **$3.35 PER SERVE**

1 tablespoon olive oil
200g speck (cured pork, from the supermarket smallgoods aisle), chopped
2 celery, sliced
2 carrot, sliced
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 cup white wine
4 cups chicken stock
3 cups water
400g can diced tomatoes
2 bay leaves
1½ cups small pasta shells, cooked
400g can cannellini beans, rinsed, drained
Salt and pepper
1 bunch Tuscan cabbage or kale, roughly chopped
Parmesan and crusty bread, to serve

STEP 1 In a large saucepan, heat oil on medium. Gently fry speck, celery, carrot and onion for 5 minutes until onion is tender. Add wine and simmer for 2-3 minutes until reduced by half.
STEP 2 Stir in stock, water, tomatoes and bay leaves. Bring to boil on high. Reduce heat to medium and simmer for 20-25 minutes.
STEP 3 Add pasta and beans. Cook for 3-4 minutes until heated through. Season to taste.
STEP 4 Stir cabbage through to just wilt. Serve soup sprinkled with parmesan and accompanied with crusty bread. ›

WEEK 3

homesplusmag.com.au
Sign up to our newsletter on our website and you'll get a downloadable #weekdaymeal recipe every week.

25 MINS

MONDAY

CHILLI-BASIL PUMPKIN STIR-FRY

SERVES 4 **PREP** 15 MINUTES
COOK 10 MINUTES **$2.65 PER SERVE**

500g pumpkin, peeled, seeded, in 2cm cubes
¼ cup peanut oil
1 onion, thinly sliced
2 garlic cloves, crushed
4 bird's-eye chillies, sliced
250g sugar snap peas
¼ cup kecap manis (see tip)
1 bunch Thai basil leaves
½ cup cashews, toasted
Steamed jasmine rice, to serve

STEP 1 Bring a medium saucepan of salted water to boil. Add pumpkin and cook for 2-3 minutes until almost tender. Drain well.
STEP 2 In a wok or large frying pan heat oil on high. Stir-fry onion for 1-2 minutes until golden. Add garlic and chilli; stir-fry for 1 minute until fragrant. Mix in pumpkin; stir-fry 1-2 minutes until light golden in colour.
STEP 3 Add peas and kecap manis; stir-fry for 1-2 minutes.
STEP 4 Remove from the heat. Stir herbs and cashews through. Serve with steamed rice.

TIP Kecap manis is an Indonesian sweet soy sauce. You can find it in the Asian food section of most supermarkets.



CHICKEN TENDERLOINS WITH MUSTARD & SNOW PEA SPROUTS

SERVES 4 **PREP** 20 MINUTES **COOK** 10 MINUTES
$4.05 PER SERVE

1 tablespoon orange juice
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1 garlic clove, crushed
½ teaspoon mild paprika
500g chicken tenderloins, trimmed
Salt and pepper
1 bunch rocket, trimmed, washed
100g packet snow pea sprouts
1 red capsicum, quartered, seeded, chargrilled
½ avocado, thinly sliced
1 tablespoon pine nuts, toasted
DRESSING
2 tablespoons orange juice
1 tablespoon grain mustard
2 teaspoons olive oil

STEP 1 In a bowl, combine orange juice, coriander, garlic and paprika. Add tenderloins, tossing to coat. Season to taste. Set aside.
STEP 2 Preheat a chargrill pan on high.
STEP 3 In a large bowl, combine rocket, snow pea sprouts, capsicum and avocado. Toss gently.
STEP 4 Chargrill chicken for 2-3 minutes each side until cooked through. Slice thickly.
STEP 5 DRESSING Meanwhile, in a small jug, whisk ingredients together. Season to taste.
STEP 6 Toss salad with chicken. Drizzle with dressing and sprinkle with pine nuts.



TROUT & ASPARAGUS PASTA

SERVES 4 **PREP** 15 MINUTES
COOK 20 MINUTES **$5.90 PER SERVE**

375g small shell pasta
2 x 200g skinless ocean trout, bones removed
2 bunches asparagus, trimmed
2 tablespoons vinegar
4 eggs
1 bunch dill, finely chopped
1 bunch chives, chopped finely
¼ cup mayonnaise
Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
2 tablespoons salted capers

STEP 1 Cook pasta in a large saucepan of boiling salted water, following packet instructions. Drain and return to pan.
STEP 2 Meanwhile, half-fill a medium saucepan with water and bring to a simmer. Poach trout fillets for 3-4 minutes until just opaque. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towel.
STEP 3 Blanch asparagus in same water for 1-2 minutes. Transfer to a bowl of cold water. Drain and chop into 2cm pieces.
STEP 4 Return water to a simmer and add vinegar. Break eggs into a small bowl one at a time and carefully slide into water. Poach for 2-3 minutes until eggwhite is just cooked. Carefully remove and drain on paper towel. Keep warm.
STEP 5 Add asparagus, herbs, mayonnaise, lemon and capers to pasta. Flake over trout and toss gently over a low heat to combine. Season to taste. Divide among serving bowls and top each serve with a poached egg.

TIP To serve this as a cold salad, swap poached eggs for hard boiled. ›

THURSDAY



CHICKEN & BROCCOLI BAKE

SERVES 4 **PREP** 15 MINUTES **COOK** 50 MINUTES

$3.95 PER SERVE

2 tablespoons olive oil
500g chicken thigh fillets, cut into chunks
3 potatoes, peeled, boiled, thickly sliced
1 head broccoli, cut into florets, blanched (or asparagus)
420g can creamy chicken soup
½ cup sour cream
¼ cup mayonnaise
Chopped parsley, to serve
TOPPING
1 cup panko breadcrumbs
½ cup grated tasty cheese
¼ cup grated parmesan

STEP 1 Preheat oven to moderate, 180°C (160°C fan forced).
STEP 2 In a large frying pan, heat oil on high. Brown chicken for 2-3 minutes on both sides (see tip). Transfer to a plate.
STEP 3 Arrange cooked potato in the base of a large, greased casserole dish. Top with chicken followed with a layer of broccoli.
STEP 4 In a jug, combine soup, sour cream and mayonnaise. Pour over broccoli.
STEP 5 TOPPING In a bowl, combine all ingredients.
STEP 6 Sprinkle topping evenly over casserole dish. Bake for 40-45 minutes until chicken is cooked and topping turns golden. Sprinkle with parsley to serve.

TIP The browning step of the chicken is optional – simply layer the raw chicken as directed if preferred.

FRIDAY



MOROCCAN LAMB PIE

SERVES 4 **PREP** 30 MINUTES
COOK 2 HOURS **$4.45 PER SERVE**

2 tablespoons oil
2 onions, finely sliced
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 tablespoon Moroccan seasoning
1kg lamb shoulder, cubed
2 cups beef stock
Grated zest of 2 lemons
1½ sheets frozen shortcrust pastry
2 tablespoons chopped coriander
1½ sheets frozen puff pastry, thawed
1 egg, beaten
2 teaspoons cumin seeds
Roast pumpkin wedges, to serve

STEP 1 In a large saucepan, heat oil on high. Gently fry onion and garlic for 2-3 minutes until onion is tender. Add seasoning. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute, until fragrant. Add lamb and cook for 5-6 minutes, stirring, until evenly browned and coated in spice.
STEP 2 Stir in stock and zest. Reduce heat to medium. Simmer, covered, for 1 hour. Remove lid and simmer for a further 25-30 minutes until lamb is tender and sauce thickened. Allow to cool.
STEP 3 Preheat oven to moderate, 180°C (160°C fan forced).
STEP 4 Meanwhile, line a 20cm round pie dish with shortcrust pastry, joining sheets to fit. Trim edges. Fill with scrunched foil. Bake blind for 10 minutes until base is golden.
STEP 5 Increase oven to hot, 200°C (180°C fan forced). Spoon filling into pastry. Sprinkle with coriander.
STEP 6 Join puff pastry together and trim to a circle, large enough to cover filling. Position on pie, pressing around edges to seal. Brush with egg and sprinkle with seeds. Make an air vent using a sharp knife. Bake for 15-20 minutes until puffed and golden. Serve with roast pumpkin wedges.

WEEK 4

MONDAY

NUT-CRUSTED FISH WITH POTATO ROSTI

SERVES 4 **PREP** 20 MINUTES
COOK 15 MINUTES **$4.25 PER SERVE**

1 large potato, scrubbed
1 celeriac, peeled, quartered
1 cup macadamia nuts
2 tbsp olive oil
1 garlic clove, crushed
Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
4 x 200g firm white fish fillets
Salt and pepper
50g butter
300ml tub thickened cream
2 tbsp tarragon
Steamed asparagus, to serve

STEP 1 Preheat oven to moderate, 180°C. Line an oven tray with baking paper.
STEP 2 Place potatoes and celeriac in a saucepan of cold water. Bring to the boil, then remove from heat. Cover with a tight fitting lid and set aside 10 minutes. Drain well and cool. Peel potato. Grate potato and celeriac into a bowl and season to taste. Mix well.
STEP 3 Place nuts, oil, garlic and zest in food processor. Pulse until mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Season to taste.
STEP 4 Place fish on tray. Divide nut mixture among the fish and press down firmly. Bake 8-10 minutes until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork in the thickest part.
STEP 5 Meanwhile, in a large frying pan, heat butter on high. Place ⅓ cup measures of potato mixture into pan, flattening slightly with a spatula. Cook until 2-3 minutes until golden. Turn and cook for 1-2 minutes until golden. Drain on paper towel. Repeat with remaining mixture.
STEP 6 In small saucepan, bring cream to the boil on high. Stir in lemon juice and tarragon. Simmer 2-3 minutes until slightly thickened. Serve fish with rosti, asparagus and sauce. ›

35 MINS

TUESDAY



TUNA CHEESE CRUST PIES

MAKES 6 **PREP** 20 MINUTES (PLUS CHILLING)
COOK 30 MINUTES **$1.85 PER SERVE**

1½ cups plain flour, sifted
200g tub cottage cheese
125g butter, melted
1 tablespoon chopped dill
5 eggs, beaten
¾ cup evaporated milk
185g can tuna in brine, drained, flaked
2 green onions, sliced
1 tablespoon lemon juice
Salt and pepper
½ cup grated tasty cheese
¼ cup chopped semi-dried tomatoes
Salad leaves, to serve

STEP 1 Preheat oven to hot, 200°C (180°C fan forced). Preheat an oven tray. Grease 6 recesses of a Texas muffin pan (¾ cup).
STEP 2 In a bowl, combine flour, cheese, butter and dill. Using fingertips, rub mix to form a dough. Wrap in plastic wrap. Chill for 15 minutes.
STEP 3 Roll dough between 2 sheets of baking paper until 3mm thick. Using a 16cm circle cutter, cut 6 rounds from pastry. Ease into recesses to line. Prick all over with a fork. Place muffin pan on hot tray in oven. Bake for 5 minutes.
STEP 4 Reduce oven to moderate, 180°C (160°C fan forced).
STEP 5 In a large jug whisk eggs and milk together. Stir in tuna, green onions and juice. Season to taste. Pour filling evenly among cases. Sprinkle with cheese and tomatoes. Bake for 20-25 minutes until set and golden. Serve warm or cold, with salad.

TIP The cottage cheese in this pastry makes it easy to work with – if you have any left over, freeze for later use.

WEDNESDAY



RAG PASTA WITH PRAWNS & CRAB

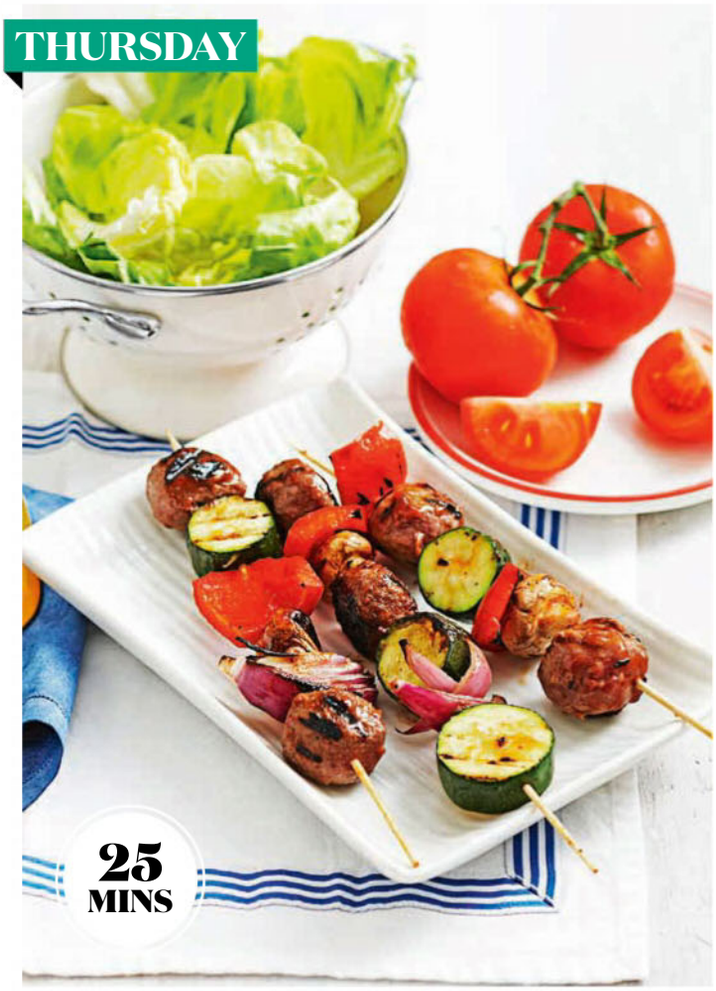
SERVES 4-6 **PREP** 15 MINUTES
COOK 15 MINUTES **$4.50 PER SERVE**

375g fresh lasagna sheets, torn
⅓ cup olive oil
2 eschalots, finely diced
500g green prawns, peeled, deveined, tails on
2 long red chillies, finely sliced
1 garlic clove, crushed
2 zucchini, peeled into ribbons
50g baby rocket
1 lemon, grated zest and 2 tablespoons juice
Salt and pepper
200g cooked crab meat, drained
½ cup basil leaves, shredded
White wine, to serve

STEP 1 Cook pasta in large saucepan of boiling salted water, following packet instructions. Drain well, reserving ¼ cup cooking liquid. Return to saucepan.
STEP 2 Meanwhile, heat oil in large frying pan on high. Gently fry eschalots for 1 minute. Add prawns, chilli and garlic to pan and cook for 2-3 minutes until prawns change colour.
STEP 3 Add prawn mixture to pasta with zucchini, rocket and lemon. Toss well and season to taste. Gently stir crab meat and basil through. Heat for 1-2 minutes. Serve with a glass of crisp white wine.

TIP Fresh pasta is perfect for a really quick dinner as it takes less time to cook than dried pasta.

THURSDAY



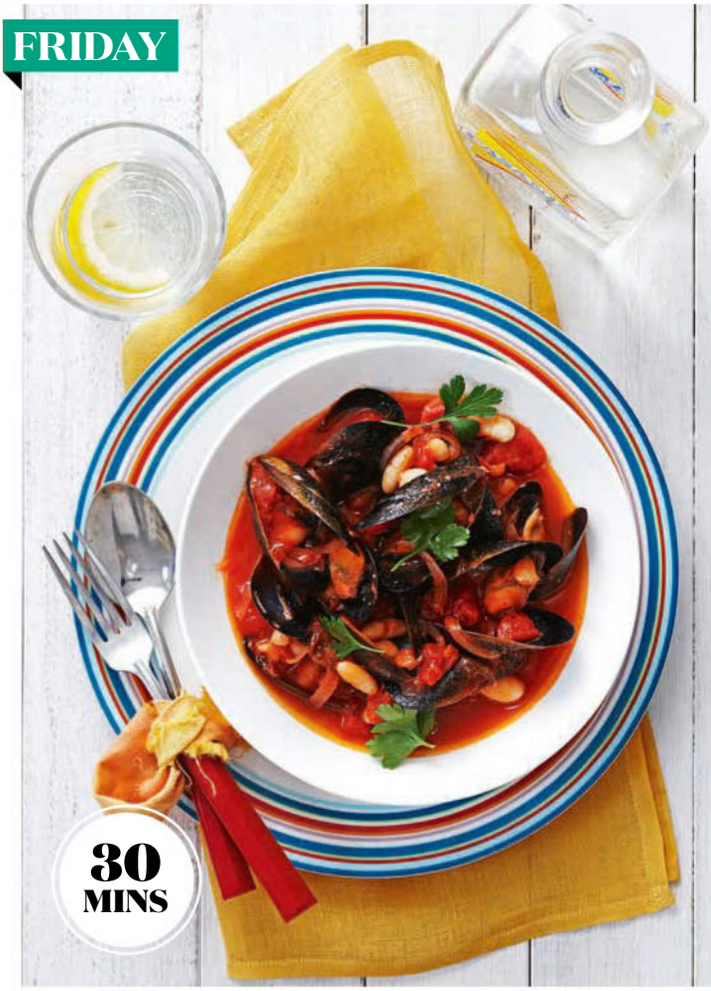
MEATBALL KEBABS

MAKES 10 **PREP** 15 MINUTES
COOK 10 MINUTES **$1.00 PER SKEWER**

400g ready-made meatballs
½ cup steak sauce, plus extra to serve
1 red onion, cut into chunks
125g button mushrooms, trimmed
1 zucchini, sliced
1 red capsicum, seeded, cut into chunks
10 bamboo skewers, soaked
Salt and pepper
Salad, to serve

STEP 1 Preheat large chargrill pan or barbecue plate on medium.
STEP 2 Combine meatballs and steak sauce in a bowl; toss to coat.
STEP 3 Thread meatballs, onion, mushroom, zucchini and capsicum alternately onto skewers. Season to taste. Cook for 8-10 minutes, turning on all sides, until cooked through. Serve with extra steak sauce and salad.

FRIDAY



MUSSELS WITH TOMATOES & CANNELLINI BEANS

SERVES 4 **PREP** 15 MINUTES
COOK 15 MINUTES **$4.00 PER SERVE**

2 teaspoons olive oil
1 red onion, thinly sliced
2 garlic cloves, crushed
½ cup white wine
400g can diced tomatoes
1kg mussels, scrubbed, debearded
400g can cannellini beans, drained, rinsed
Salt and pepper
⅓ cup parsley leaves

STEP 1 Heat oil in a large saucepan on high. Gently fry onion and garlic for 3-4 minutes until tender.
STEP 2 Stir in wine. Bring to the boil on high. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 3-4 minutes until reduced by half. Blend in tomatoes. Bring back to the boil.
STEP 3 Add mussels. Simmer, covered, for 2-3 minutes until mussels open, discarding any that do not.
STEP 4 Stir in beans. Simmer for 2-3 minutes until heated through. Season to taste. Serve sprinkled with parsley.

TIP Add a little chilli, if liked, and serve with some crusty bread to mop up the juices. H+

MAKE IT YOURSELF

STEP-BY-STEP BANOFFEE MERINGUE WITH HONEYCOMB

Delight your own tastebuds and impress your guests with this restaurant-quality dessert laden with **banana and caramel.**

SERVES 12 **PREP + COOK** 3 HOURS (+ COOLING) **$1.07 PER SERVE**



Together or apart
Instead of separate servings, you can also serve this meringue as one long cake.





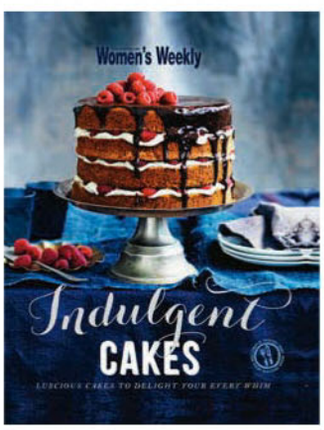








Sweet as honey
This oh-so decadent banoffee meringue and honeycomb recipe was taken from *Indulgent Cakes* by *The Australian Women's Weekly* (Bauer Media Books, $49.95). Check out more of the delicious recipes!



4 eggwhites
¼ teaspoon cream of tartar
¼ cup caster sugar
¾ cup firmly packed brown sugar
2 teaspoons cornflour (cornstarch)
1 teaspoon white vinegar
¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
2 medium bananas, sliced
1 tablespoon caster sugar (extra)
300ml thick (double) cream
100g honeycomb, coarsely chopped
DULCE DE LECHE
395g tin sweetened condensed milk

STEP 1 To make dulce de leche, preheat oven to 220°C. Pour condensed milk into a 1.5-litre (6-cup) ceramic ovenproof dish. Cover dish tightly with foil; crush excess foil upwards. Place ceramic dish in a medium baking dish; add enough boiling water to come halfway up the side of the ceramic dish. Bake for 1 hour. Whisk mixture; cover and bake for a further 30 minutes or until a golden caramel colour, adding extra boiling water to baking dish as needed to maintain water level during baking. Remove dish from water; let cool. Whisk mixture until smooth. Transfer to a medium bowl; cover and refrigerate until chilled.
STEP 2 Preheat oven to 120°C. Line 2 large oven trays with baking paper. Mark two 12.5cm x 30cm rectangles on paper; turn (marked-side down) on trays.
STEP 3 Beat eggwhites, cream of tartar and sugars in a medium bowl with an electric mixer on high speed for 8 minutes or until thick and glossy and sugar is dissolved (**A**). Beat in cornflour, vinegar and vanilla extract on low speed. Divide mixture evenly between trays, spreading to cover just inside marked rectangles; swirl meringue (**B**).
STEP 4 Bake meringue for 1 hour or until dry to touch. Cool in oven with door ajar.
STEP 5 Place banana slices, in a single layer, on an oven tray; sprinkle with extra caster sugar. Using a blowtorch, caramelise sugar (**C; also see tip**).
STEP 6 Whisk dulce de leche in a medium bowl until smooth. Whisk cream in a small bowl until soft peaks form.
STEP 7 Place one meringue on a platter. Spread two-thirds of the cream over meringue (**D**). Drop spoonfuls of half the dulce de leche on cream (**E**). Repeat layering with remaining meringue, cream and dulce de leche. Top with banana slices and honeycomb (**F**).
STEP 8 To serve, cut the cake using a finely serrated knife and place on plates, or for a modern approach, serve in glasses.

TIP Dulce de leche is a caramel sauce. If you prefer, you can buy it ready made from delis, gourmet food stores and supermarkets. Plain honeycomb is available from sweet stores and greengrocers. If unavailable, use two 50g Crunchie bars and cut off the chocolate. Blowtorches are available from homeware and hardware stores. Alternatively, you can place the bananas under a hot grill to caramelise the sugar.

DO-AHEAD Dulce de leche can be made a day ahead. Meringue is best made on day of serving. Store in an airtight container and assemble close to serving. H+

RECIPE COURTESY OF *INDULGENT CAKES* BY *THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY*

92% of children in foster care are below the average reading level at age 7



PHOTOGRAPH POSED FOR BY MODEL NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROMOTION.

TRUE CASE STORIES OF CHILDREN NOW IN CARE

- A boy, aged three, who didn't know his own name, had never slept in a bed, but under a chair where it was safe, and was only fed occasionally.
- A four-year-old who was the sole carer for her one-year-old brother.
- Four young siblings locked out and forced to sleep under the house, who ate dog food when they were hungry.
- Two sisters who had to drink from the gutter when they were thirsty.
- A 14 year old who had a total meltdown on Christmas day when receiving a present as she never celebrated Christmas before and had never received a gift.

75% of children in care do not complete schooling

50% of the homeless come from a care background

Help us change these children's lives

The Pyjama Foundation need vital funds to continue to transform children's lives, a donation of $50 can give a child an Angel. There are many ways you can become involved through fundraising and direct donations. Visit thepyjamafoundation.com to see how you can help.

Who is the Pyjama Foundation?

Alarmed at the poor literacy and numeracy levels of children in care – they have the lowest educational outcomes nationally – and how this leads to a lifetime of disadvantage, Bronwyn Sheehan founded The Pyjama Foundation in 2004, to make a positive impact on the lives of our community's most vulnerable children.

Through the Love Of Learning program, volunteers called Pyjama Angels are matched with a child in care and spend time with them once a week, every week, focusing on learning-based activities. The Angels read books aloud with their child, play educational games and help with the child's homework.

By improving the child's learning skills, The Pyjama Foundation is making a positive, life-long impact on their futures.

HOW WE HELP

- Over 1000 Pyjama Angels volunteer each week
- Over 1300 children each week are supported throughout Queensland, parts of Sydney and Melbourne
- 90% of foster carers with children in the Love Of Learning program have seen the child's literacy skills improve



the pyjama foundation

BEFORE & AFTER

RENOS

(READERS' EXPERIENCES, TIPS & BUDGETS)

MATT & KIM TO THE RESCUE! ONE FAMILY'S DREAM HOME



Light fantastic A set of statement limited edition Gilt pendant lights from Freedom defines the dining space and creates an eye-catching feature.

Fancy seat Upholstered seating from Furniture Bazaar adds a plush feel to the dining area.

Tricked out Vertically aligned runners work well on larger tables. ›

PHOTOGRAPHY ALF SORBELLO

THIS MONTH AN AUSSIE FAMILY GETS A WELL-DESERVED HOME RENO

TO THE **RESCUE!**

The Butler family were doing it tough and **dreaming of a home** that would meet their needs – but all that changed when they met **Matt and Kim.**



after

Good as gold
Furniture Bazaar donated most of the furniture in the house, including this feature sofa in beautiful golden yellow velvet.



Matt and Kim

REMEMBER MATT AND KIM FROM TV's *The Block*? Well, they're back with their own show on Channel Nine – *Matt & Kim To The Rescue*. Their mission? To help families that are truly deserving of a helping hand. Case in point are the Butlers (see box, top right), who live in Perth's Seville Grove. Three of the family's kids suffer from haemophilia, a condition that prevents the blood from clotting properly and makes every day an upward battle for the family. Dozens of companies and volunteers generously donated materials, products and labour to transform the Butlers' home into something special. ›



before

Bad layout
The use of space in the old living area was not ideal – but a makeover would fix that.

TIP
Pendant lights over the table will zone a dining area in an open-plan room.



after

Hard-wearing furniture A concrete dining table custom made by Sky High Renders will withstand the rigours of family life.

MEET THE BUTLERS



About the Butler family Deb and Peter are parents to Callum, 14, Georgia, 12, twins Angus and Hunter, 9, and Millar, 3. They're much-loved in their community but have had a fair bit of bad luck. Getting by on one income means there's no money or time to spend on creating the perfect home.
The makeover Matt and Kim had four days, dozens of local trades and an army of volunteers to redo the Butlers' home. Hey presto! They transformed it into a place that's fun and functional for every member of the family.



after

Kitchen confident Now, the kitchen, by Latrobe Cabinets, is spatially efficient and aesthetically beautiful. Plus it has a handy breakfast bar for the kids.



after

Clever design The TV and entertainment unit are wall-mounted. The wall is clad in easy-to-install Laminex Clipwall cladding, which just clicks into place.



before

Out with the old The old kitchen was an awkward shape and took up too much space.

after

Wow!
Deb and Peter's bedroom was treated to new carpets, a fabric bedhead and Arnold pendants from Masters Home Improvement.

"The house was too cramped and they were living on top of one another."



after



Sweet touches
Young Millar's room was carpeted in Floral Fields in Silver Bell from Carpet Court. The gorgeous Timber House bed was donated by Norsu Interiors.

MATT & KIM'S STYLING TIPS

1 Create spaces that are usable and interesting. "In the case of the Butler family, they needed more usable spaces for the family to enjoy together – the backyard, lounge and dining area. But we also gave the kids spaces that they could enjoy on their own, like a place to study or read in their room."

2 Resign your lighting plan. "Natural light is the best. It's free and has such a huge impact on the feeling of the room. That's why we installed bifold doors in the Butlers' living area. Make sure you have enough functional light in each room, but also plan in some mood lighting to create warmth and interest."



after

Just right
Kim wanted Georgia's room to be cool and mature. The Sphera glass pendant is from Freedom.



after

Go team
The twins' new room is a shrine to their heroes, the West Coast Eagles.

WARM LIGHT
Varmluft **pendant light**, $12.99, from Ikea.

PRETTY PLEATS
Origami Teardrop **pendant shade**, $129, from Freedom.

THE BIRDS
Önskedröm **cushion**, $6.99, from Ikea.

HELLO YELLOW
Plain Rib **cushion** in Yellow, $10, from Target.

MATT & KIM'S BEST BUYS

ON THE FRINGE
Morgan & Finch "Chunky Tassel" **throw**, $69.95, from Bed Bath N' Table.

CARPETS
Creekwood in Candlewick, $66 a sq m, and **Floral Fields** in Silverbell, $68 a sq m (left), (prices exclude installation), from Carpet Court.

TIMBER FLOORING
Regal Oak in Doulton, $99 a sq m (plus installation), from Carpet Court.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page to see the whole-house budget for the Butlers' makeover.

3 Connect the house. "Take your material choices and incorporate them in each area of the house, but also in the front and backyard. This creates a streamlined feel throughout the house and yard areas and helps tie them all together."

4 Try and save money on the trades. "If you have any tradie mates, get them to help out and you can return the favour. This frees up more money to spend on the furniture and styling, which is what you see and what gives the room its feeling."

5 Always allow more budget. "No one ever renovates under budget. If you know one, get a builder to help you price the renovation prior to the commencement of works. The majority of heartache during the renovation process is caused by the owners' rose-coloured view of the cost. We've been there before, haha!"

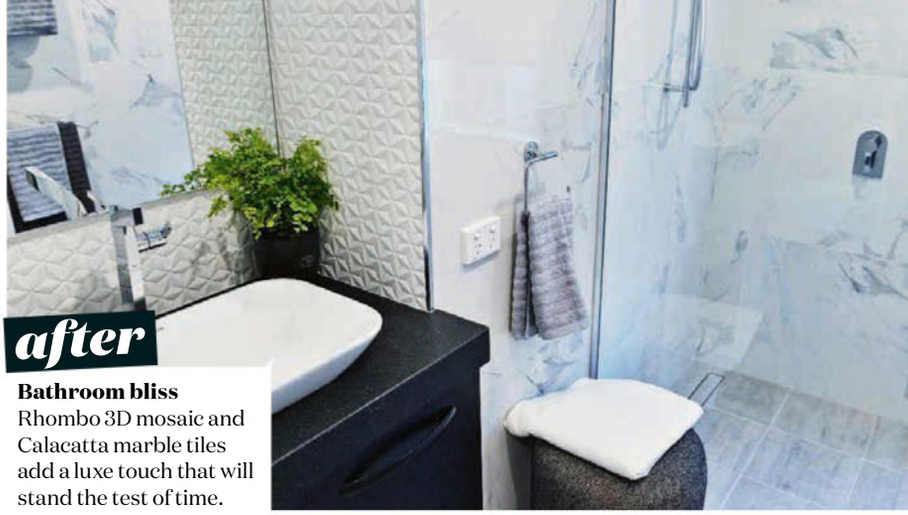
6 Don't design for resale. "We designed the Butlers' home for them, personally, long-term. Interior design and trends move so fast that everything will become outdated eventually and you'll be left with a house you don't love. Design the house you want now and enjoy it. Go big!" ›

PHOTOGRAPHY ALF SORBELLO



before

About time!
The old main bathroom was completely gutted and all the fittings and surfaces replaced.



after

Bathroom bliss
Rhombo 3D mosaic and Calacatta marble tiles add a luxe touch that will stand the test of time.



after

Fun times
The backyard was revamped with a deck, dining area, pergola, vegetable patch, BBQ, water tanks and no-maintenance artificial turf. Plus, a new trampoline!



after

Great use of space
The pergola was erected in record time and is now home to a lovely outdoor lounging area.



TIP
Create zones in the outdoor area suited to each family member.



after

Kids' paradise
A sandpit was created for Millar and friends to play in. The amazing mural of the kids was painted by Jerome from Blankwalls.com.au. What a great touch!

MONEY SAVERS

"Week to week money was an issue for the family, and they hadn't created any happy memories in a long time," Matt says. "The house was just too cramped and they were living on top of each other. Our solution was simple. Create a home that (a) has logical, personal spaces and (b) costs less to run per week."

Caroma SmartFlush toilets were installed, each one able to save thousands of litres of water a year. Big Ass ceiling fans (Bigassfans.com) went into the ceilings and on the deck – they kick off with an initial burst of electricity and then keep running due to a special system of magnets. Solar panels went up, too. Great stuff!

Catch "Matt & Kim To The Rescue", coming soon to Channel Nine. H+

Matt says: save vs splurge

SAVE ON...

1. Items from Cash Converters. "We got iPads for the kids. They were half the retail price and were almost brand new. We also bought the clothes dryer, TVs and DVD/Blu-Ray players and gaming console there."

2. Solver paints are great value. "Paint is the cheapest way to add impact to a room. In Georgia's room we used five different shades of dusty pink and black, applied to the walls in cool geometric shapes."

3. Lighting from Freedom and Ikea. "On-trend designs at affordable prices."

4. Custom wallpaper – Egyptian Hieroglyphics in Callum's room, from Pro Art Murals. "A very striking and personal addition to any home."

5. Round jute rugs by Ferm Living, from Norsu Interiors. "We put one of these in Millar's room. "It's one of my favourite products on the market at the moment and the patterns are really cute."

SPLURGE ON...

1. Polished plastered walls by Sky High Renders. "Installed for $100 per sq m. They created a beautiful polished finish in the master bedroom, twins' bedroom and a concrete finish on the wall by the BBQ area in the backyard."

2. Bella Series marble splashback in the kitchen, from Bravvo. "It's around $400 per sq m and is a wonderful product. Fire-, scratch- and stain-proof and looks stunning."

3. Calacatta Lux marble tiles from Tile Boutique. "$90 per sq m; the best quality and the results speak for themselves."

4. Regal Oak timber flooring from Carpet Court. "At around $99 per sq m plus installation costs this is very competitive and cannot be matched for quality."

5. Composite decking for the backyard: NuDeck UltraShield. "$325 per sq m, installed by Landscapes WA. "This stuff will outlast most products."

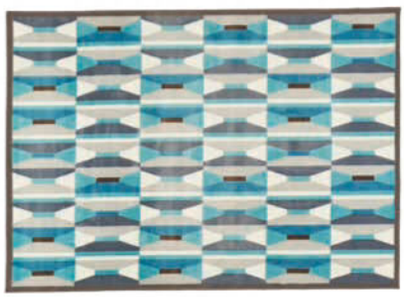
BEST BUYS

SNUG AS A RUG

There's nothing like a floor covering to **make a design statement.** Here is a selection of our favourite rugs.

PATTERNED RUGS

$



TILE STYLE
Vidstrup **rug** (1.7m x 2.4m), $149, from Ikea.
Thick pile to muffle sound. Durable and stain-resistant.



ARTY PRINT
Picasso **rug** (1.2m x 1.7m), $179.40, from Harvey Norman.
Minimalist style gets an edge with this modern design in neutral hues.



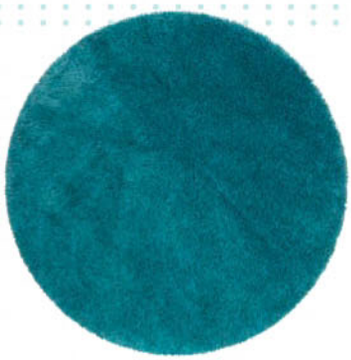
SHOCK WAVE
Chekat **designer rug** in Multi Blue/Ivory (60cm x 91cm), $204.95, from Zanui.
Made of pure wool yarn. Hand-loomed in Fair Trade workshops.

CIRCLE RUGS

$



DRAW IT OUT
Virring **round rug** (80cm), $14.99, from Ikea.
The thick pile dampens sound. Easy to care for as it's stain-resistant.



BLUE FUNK
Ådum **round rug** in Turquoise (1.3m), $79, from Ikea.
Ultra soft and eye-catching, this is a colourful statement piece.



SILVER SERVICE
Tortuga Hemp **round rug** in Silver (1.2m), $79.95, from Zanui.
The eco choice – hemp is ethically produced and sustainable.

NEUTRAL RUGS

$ $$$



JUTED AND SUITED
Jute **rug** (30cm x 90cm), $29, from Target.
This classic-style rug is ideal for homes with small children as it cleans up well.



STATE OF GRACE
Grace **rug** (2.3m x 1.6m), $179.40, from Harvey Norman.
Flat weave for a subtle hit of texture. Strong enough for outdoors.



WOVEN BEAUTY
Jute **rug** (1.5m x 2.4m), $269, from Super Amart.
Design tip: opt for a bigger size and use it as a base for layering.

$$$



BOW AND ARROW
Chevron **rug** (1.6m x 2.3m), $349, from Super Amart.
A runway-suitable design that's always in style. Perfect width to fit a three-seater sofa.



TAKE ME TO THE RIVER
Rubix **rug** (1.6m x 2.3m), $499, from Harvey Norman.
Extra soft for your feet thanks to its polyester fibres.



SPECKLED IMPACT
real living for Freedom **rug** (1.6m x 2.3m), $499, from Freedom.
A muted colourway makes this stylish rug complement any room.

$$$



ROUGH DIAMONDS
Ikat Modern **round rug** in Brown (1.5m), $179.95, from Zanui.
Acrylic pile for strength. Minimal shredding so it will stay plush.



ZEBRA CROSSING
Chevron round **rug** in Black/White (1.5m), $179.95, from Zanui.
Backed with cotton so it lasts longer. Super plush with a 200mm pile.



CIRCLE OF LIFE
Madras **round rug** (2.5m), $349, from Freedom.
Add warmth with a natural hue. The bouclé-knot weave gives a relaxed look.

HALLWAY RUGS

$

$$$

BEST BUY $99



BETWEEN THE LINES
Rörholt **runner rug** (76cm x 2m) $14.99, from Ikea.
Bright hues work well in empty spaces such as hallways.

RIPPLE EFFECT
Icon Piccolo Ripple **runner rug** (3m x 80cm), $69.95, from Zanui.
A 16mm pile for comfort. Earthy tones match most decor styles.

ON THE RUN
Jute **runner rug** (2m x 75cm), $99, from Target.
Hard-wearing so it suits areas with heavy foot traffic.

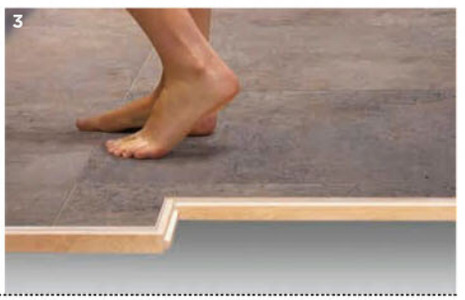
A GOOD YARN
Boucle Sisal **runner rug** (3m x 80cm), $179.95, from Zanui.
Latex rubber backing protects against slips. H+

NEW THINGS

Enhance the look and feel of your home
with these **beautiful new products**

























1 CHOICES FLOORING For looks that last, you can't go past the Eternity Inception carpet range – it's soft, stylish, affordable. Choicesflooring.com.au **2 ZANUI** The '70s-inspired Larsen three-seat sofa in Light Grey allows you to lounge in superb comfort and nostalgic style. Zanui.com.au **3 SCYON** Robust and easy to install, Scyon™ Secura™ Floors is the simplest way of achieving a water-resistant base for new living spaces. Scyon.com.au **4 DULUX** Choosing colour has been made easy with the release of the Dulux Design Trends pre-tints range – there are eight special-edition colours. Dulux.com.au/colourtrends **5 HARVEY NORMAN** Get your clothes cleaner than ever before with this innovative 10kg Washsmart washing machine from Fisher & Paykel. Fisherpaykel.com/au **6 CRYSTAL CONFETTI BRIDAL** Unique bridal and fashion jewellery designed and handmade by Afroditi using Swarovski crystals. Crystalconfettibridal.com.au **7 FURNITURE ONLINE** Modern and sophisticated, this sofa boasts an ultra-contemporary design and an elegantly neutral fabrication to suit any décor. Furnitureonline.com.au **8 OFFICEWORKS** The Orla Kiely Pocketbook fits in your pocket or handbag for on-the-go note taking. Each book offers 80 pages with a stylish cover design. Officeworks.com.au **9 HUSQVARNA VIKING** Bring new life to a tired room using the Opal 690Q. Sew new curtains and cushions to transform your space. Husqvarnaviking.com/au **10 DOORS PLUS** This venetian blind is encased between two layers of clear safe glass, minimising noise and heat transfer. Doorsplus.com.au **11 IKEA** Have a great night's sleep with Ikea's colourful range of 100% cotton bedlinen. Tofsviva quilt cover and two pillowcases, from $29.99. Ikea.com.au **12 BED BATH N' TABLE** Cosy up for winter with a palette of rich colours, and play with texture and pattern through layers of cushions and throws. Bedbathntable.com.au

MY BACKYARD

(GET BACK TO NATURE)

BACKYARD DECOR & GROW YOUR OWN!



Hang & go
A rustic rack hung at the back door is ideal for the kids to stash wet towels. ›

Found objects
Natural items such as dried plants and driftwood bring the beach to the backyard.

THIS MONTH A TROPICAL BACKYARD, CONTEMPORARY GARDENS & VEGIE PLANNER

SHOW US YOUR BACKYARD & WIN $1000
see how on pg 111

Cool cluster Wendy likes to mix and match pots for added interest. The table setting is from Flower Power in Warriewood.

MY BACKYARD **WENDY PYL**

GOIN' TROPPO

A Balinese holiday inspired the design of this tropical **beachside garden.**

THIS TROPICAL HAVEN is worlds away from the garden it once was. Homeowner Wendy Pyl says when her and her husband Ralph bought their home in Bilgola on Sydney's Northern Beaches, the garden was bare with a lawn full of bindis. "We really wanted to keep the lawn space for our two kids to kick a ball around," Wendy says. "So we got rid of the old lawn and re-turfed with Palmetto – a soft variety of Buffalo." For the rest of the garden design, she was inspired by a trip to Bali.

FRESH FOLIAGE

When it came to choosing plants, Wendy didn't want anything too formal. "We were influenced by the many lush tropical gardens in our coastal neighbourhood and overseas, too," she says. "Tropical plants are also amazingly hardy. It also helps that Bilgola is full of red volcanic soil so everything grows really well!"

Wendy has planted most of the plants herself, by simply layering the garden with the things she loves – see her favourite plants above. ›

WENDY'S PLANTS



Wendy's top 5 plants

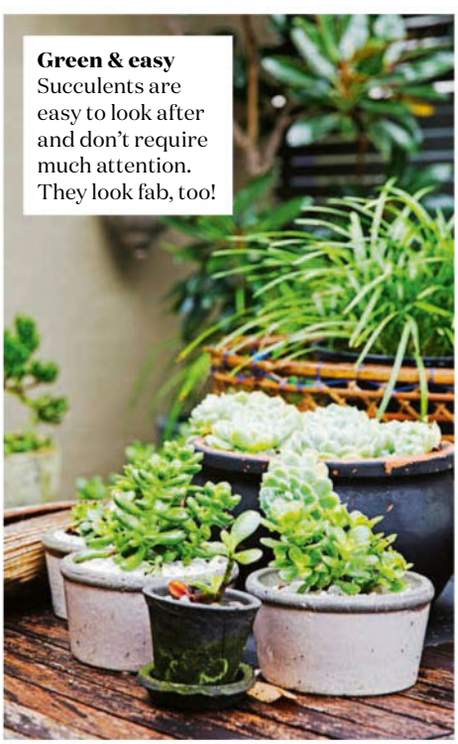
1 Agaves They grow offshoots, so you never have to buy new ones, just split and re-plant.

2 Strelitzia (bird-of-paradise) Very hardy with beautiful orange and purple flowers.

3 Palms I especially love kentia palms – they look so lush.

4 Murraya hedge Another hard-to-kill plant. It's great!

5 Cordylines To add bright pops of colour to your garden.



Green & easy Succulents are easy to look after and don't require much attention. They look fab, too!



TIP

Make the most of an unused corner with a fire pit. Perfect for chilly nights!

Toasty warm
"We love the fire pit area," Wendy says. "We've spent many evenings sitting around it enjoying a glass of wine."



GREAT IDEA dividing hedges

Entertaining space
Plush Murraya hedges line the paved area, and a beautiful Japanese Maple provides plenty of shade in summer.

DAY AND NIGHT

The fire pit from Bunnings is a nice addition to the backyard, especially in winter. "We sit around with friends and picnic on the lawn while the kids toast marshmallows," Wendy says. "We even had our family Christmas here last year just on rugs outside, it was great!" The backyard can also be used for nighttime entertaining, as lighting was installed outside and under some of the trees.

Wendy's best landscaping tip? "If you are starting from scratch, leave room for areas of interest, like a corner of the garden to add a feature plant, carving, pots, etc."

Now Wendy and her family can have a tropical holiday in their own backyard. "It is relaxing, lush and lovely to have picnics in," she says. H+

✱ *Want to see more reader gardens? Visit* **homesplusmag.com.au**



Holiday vibes
Wendy's tropical garden inspiration came from a villa she stayed at in Bali.



Screen scene
A timber screen painted in Dulux "Woodland Grey" provides privacy from neighbours.

TEXT ADAM FRAZER **PHOTOGRAPHY** JAMES HENRY





Roasty toasty
Marshmallows are the perfect after-dinner treat!

TIP
Use retaining wall blocks in any colour or size for this project to get the look you want.



Budget burn
There's no need to splash out on an expensive fire pit; see our easy DIY and warm up for less this winter.

WINTER BONFIRE

BUILD A **FIRE PIT**

Want to **warm up your outdoor space**? Follow our easy step-by-step guide for installing a fire pit in your backyard.

BEGIN WITH
SHOVEL; TAPE MEASURE; ROAD BASE; HAND TAMPER; SAND; NEAT/PORTLAND CEMENT (WE USED BORAL GENERAL PURPOSE CEMENT); RETAINING WALL BLOCKS (WE USED APPROXIMATELY 63 ADBRI MASONRY MINIWALL BLOCKS)

AS WE LOOK TO utilise our outdoor spaces year round, backyard fire pits are becoming increasingly popular. Who wouldn't want to unwind by the warmth of a fire at the end of a cold winter's day? Here's how you can build your own fire pit at home.

STEP 1 It's important to choose a spot that's far enough away from plants, fences, trees or anything flammable. Consider the wind and the direction smoke from the fire will blow. Also consider access; you should be able to walk around the fire with ease.

STEP 2 Dig a circular hole approximately 15cm deep for the base of the fire. A 90cm-wide pit will keep things sociable while creating enough space for a good-sized fire.

STEP 3 Level out some road base and compact with a hand tamper or compacter. Once this is complete, spread sand throughout the trench and level. Then sprinkle a centimetre of neat cement over the levelled sand pad.

STEP 4 Use retaining wall blocks to start constructing the wall around the pit. Choose a block that enables curved walls or has speciality corner units to save you cutting the units. We used Adbri Masonry "Miniwall" blocks. You could also try Boral "Heathstone", Brighton Masonry "Eziwall", or Boral "Hadrian Wall" for a sandstone look. For square and rectangular pits, you could use Adbri Masonry "Versawall" or Boral "Litewall".

STEP 5 Hose down your fire pit and let it dry for a day before using it. The neat cement will keep everything in place. When you're ready to use your fire pit, place some newspaper in the centre of the pit and construct a teepee made of kindling over it. Light the newspaper and, once the fire gets going, add wood to the fire in a teepee shape. Now bring out the marshmallows! H+

TEXT & PROJECT JASON HODGES
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY ADBRIMASONRY.COM.AU

DIFFICULTY RATING CHART EASY AS 1, 2, 3 | A BIT HARDER | GET A FRIEND TO HELP YOU



ABOUT DALE

You may recognise **Dale Vine** from TV's *The Block*, but he's actually a landscaper by trade (and our garden guru!). You can follow Dale on Instagram: @vineyd



Al fresco dining
Sleek furniture made from stainless steel is not only modern but lasts longer, too.

Step on it
Wide steppers can be used to visually elongate a space, while bamboo continues the linear look.

GARDENING ADVICE

HOW TO CREATE A CONTEMPORARY GARDEN

Clean and minimalist – but not boring! Create a cool contemporary oasis with **Dale Vine**'s tips.

AS MORE AND MORE modern home designs creep into our neighbourhoods, clean, contemporary styling is also making an impact on outdoor spaces. A contemporary-style garden has the same fundamentals as contemporary interiors: to achieve a slick, clean look that feels very open and minimalist – accentuating the sense of space.

PLANTS

The most popular method for planting in a contemporary garden is by using pots – this way the space can remain **clean and simple**, without the mess from garden beds. When choosing pots, consider how many you will need to make an impact without drawing away from any views, while being careful not to create a feeling of clutter or confinement. Often just one or even **a few large-scale pots** that contain an **advanced plant** can be all that's needed. Plants such as mature cycads, a bird-of-paradise, dragon tree, agave or even frangipani work well for this slick garden style.

PAVING

The trick to modern design is clean lines, and this applies to paving as well. **Large linear pavers** used as evenly spaced steppers can make a **smaller space seem larger**. Light-coloured



Getting even
Achieve a minimalistic look with a border of perfectly placed pavers.



Winter plants
1. *Plumeria* (Frangipani)
2. *Strelitzia reginae* (Bird-of-paradise)
3. *Dracaena* (Dragon tree)
4. *Cycas revoluta* (Cycad – sago palm)

"Bamboo provides interest and movement without fully blocking out borders, so areas don't feel as enclosed as they would with a traditional thick hedge."

natural stones that are perfectly rectangular are usually the product of choice in contemporary gardens. Unlike dark-coloured stones, they create a clean and uncluttered look.

FURNISHINGS

A lot of outdoor contemporary furniture is modern and minimalistic in design, giving it that space-age look. Think **low chairs with simple lines** and no armrests, built more for style than for comfort. Or tables with tops that waterfall each end to become simple legs, and a fire pit that gives a sense of entertaining without the clutter of 15 chairs. Most contemporary furniture pieces come in two simple colour options – **white or black**.

TIMBER

Contemporary design is often considered cold and hard due to its typically large paved areas and lack of soft scapes such as large traditional garden beds. That's why it's important to **soften the area and add texture**. As well as potted greenery, another great way to add a feeling of warmth to a contemporary design is to **incorporate timber**. Decking timber isn't just for decks – use it for timber screens or bench seats, too.

BAMBOO

Bamboo is by far the most common plant of choice for a contemporary garden backdrop, because its many tall trunks have an appealing linear look. It also provides **interest and movement** without fully blocking out borders, so areas don't feel as enclosed as they would with a traditional thick hedge. You can create a brilliant feature by underlighting bamboo trunks with **garden lighting** at night.

ON TREND

The cool **rusted-sheet-metal look** can be applied to contemporary gardens in the form of planter pots, sculptures or even attached as panelling to the face of **retaining walls** and **screens**, or used as **edging**. Many companies can laser-cut a pattern or shape of your choice to be used as screens, gates or balustrade panels. H+

✱ *For more expert garden advice, visit* **homesplusmag.com.au**



Modern mood
The ratio of grass to pavers is perfectly judged.

TEXT DALE VINE **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANDREW ELTON /BAUERSYNDICATION.COM.AU

GARDEN PLANNER

WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH

Gardening expert **Dale Vine** talks garden necessities for the **final winter months.**

WEEK 1

REMOVE WINTER GRASS

No matter what variety of lawn species you have, they are all susceptible to patches of winter grass, which pop up in the cooler months. This grassy weed is fairly easily distinguished as it grows a **darker green in colour**, has **fine blades** and is **a little taller**. It is best removed by hand now before seed heads establish.

WEEK 2

PRUNE AND SPRAY CITRUS TREES

Prune your fruit trees to allow sunlight and air circulation into the centre of the tree to **increase fruit production**, assist in fruit ripening and reduce disease. Once pruned, spray branches with a **copper fungicide** to prevent diseases developing.

WEEK 3

TOOL MAINTENANCE

Spring growth is only a few weeks away so don't be caught out – you'll need your tools such as petrol hedge trimmers in good working order. By dropping them into your local garden-machinery service centre you can get the full check-up with a **blade sharpen**, **spark plug and oil change**, and the pull cord replaced if necessary. A quick **spray of CRC** on your blades after each job will keep everything lubricated and moving well.

WEEK 4

CHEMICAL CLEAN-OUT

Most gardeners have a cupboard in the shed where they store chemicals such as weed killers, insecticides or even organic fertilisers for use in the garden. It's good practice to look through your supply and discard any that have been sitting there for a while, as **packaging can start to leak** or break. Make sure you dispose of chemicals as specified by your local council – don't just tip them out or put them in your general waste.



Petal power Banish the "bareness" from your chilly winter garden with this bright blossoming beauty.

What to plant

The **flowering quince** (*Chaenomeles*; above) is a true winter performer. Although it's a thorny shrub without leaf at this time of year, its floral displays make it a standout during winter. Its simple flowers come in a large variety of colours including white, green, apricot, pink and red. The flowers appear to almost completely cover the bare twisted branches, and can create a striking feature when displayed indoors in a glass vase.

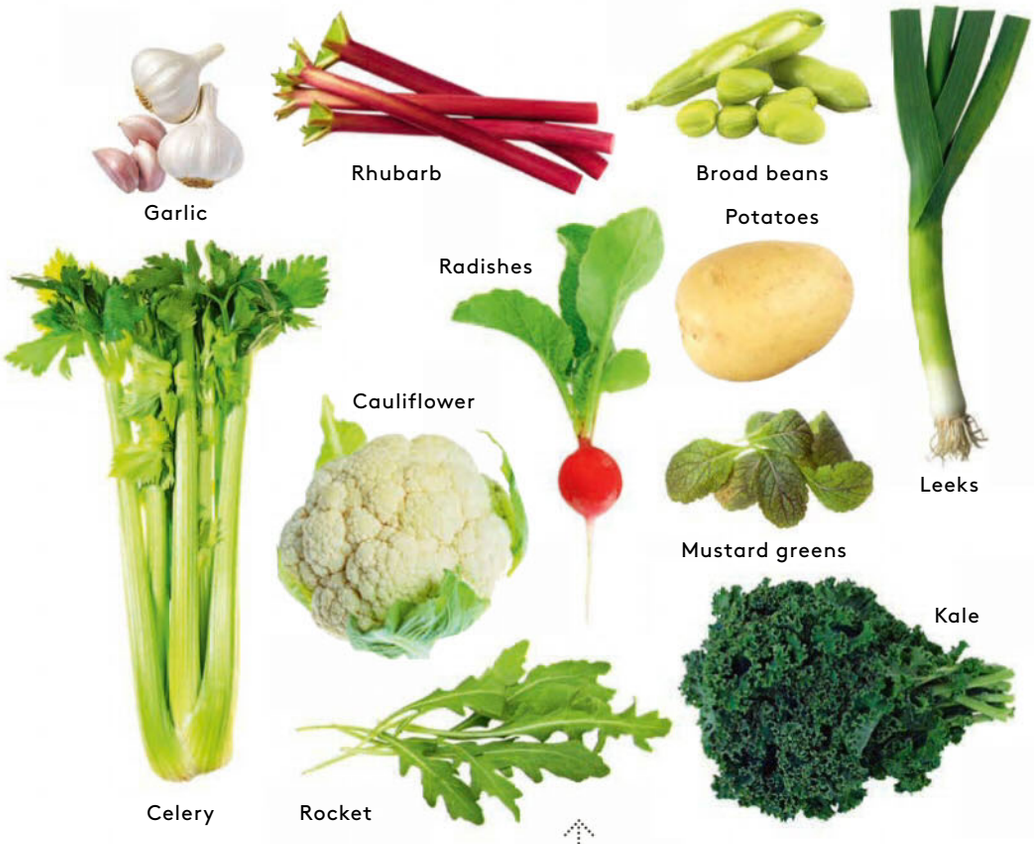
TEXT DALE VINE **PHOTOGRAPHY** BAUERSYNDICATION.COM.AU

VEGIE PLANNER

WHAT **TO DO** IN THE **VEGIE PATCH** THIS MONTH

Plant and harvest your vegies, combat mildew, and clean pots and seed trays.

What to plant





Winter goodness Blast off with the taste of freshly picked rocket.

Broad beans, cauliflower, celery, kale, garlic, leek, mustard, potato, radish, rhubarb and rocket can all be planted now. Rocket leaves will be ready to be picked in a matter of weeks, but as soon as a plant has flowered, remove it to make way for new ones as the leaves become very peppery.

Harvest now

Beetroot, broad beans, onions, leeks, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, parsnips, carrots, leeks, silverbeet and spinach can all be harvested now. If you need to take a gift to a dinner party or want a unique present for a housewarming, a **vegie box** filled with freshly picked winter produce would be perfect.

WEEK 1

MINT CONTROL

Mint is a much-loved herb, but it often takes over entire areas of the vegie patch. Mint has a very **invasive growth habit**, so if it has grown wild through your vegie beds, dig it up now and **plant it into large pots** where you can control it and have new sprigs ready for spring vegies. You can even bury the pots back into the ground with only 10cm showing.

WEEK 2

PREPARE SEEDBEDS FOR VEGIES

If you've been saving a spot for your spring vegies, it's now time to add anything that's required to sustain your future crop. You should now have weeds under control, have **mixed in organic material** or manures, and if it's an area you haven't previously sown into, it may need topping up with an organic blend of garden soil to help achieve a raised bed to plant into.

WEEK 3

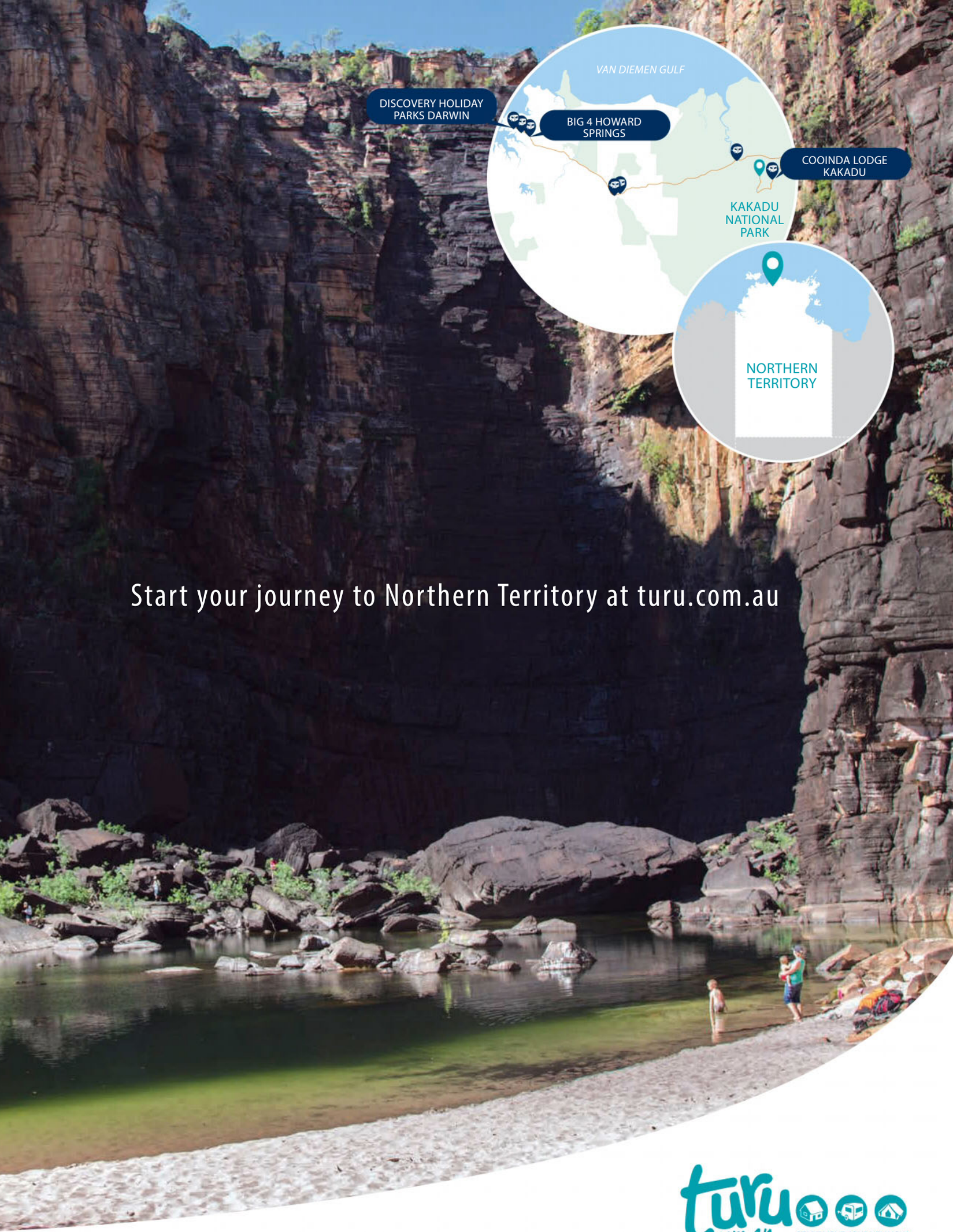
END OF WINTER SALES

At this time of year you can get some great "end of winter" deals and **update** some of **your old trusty garden tools** that are in need of retirement. You may be able to pick up a new shovel, rake, garden fork or weed sprayer, all at sale prices, before an influx of new stock comes in for spring – when gardening becomes a more popular hobby again.

WEEK 4

GETTING AHEAD

Once seedbeds have been prepared, you can get ahead of the planting season by **covering them with cloches or polythene sheeting** stretched over wire hoops. Because the soil will be kept warmer, seeds can be planted and developed up to three weeks earlier, so you won't have to buy crops from supermarkets when they are at their most expensive. H+



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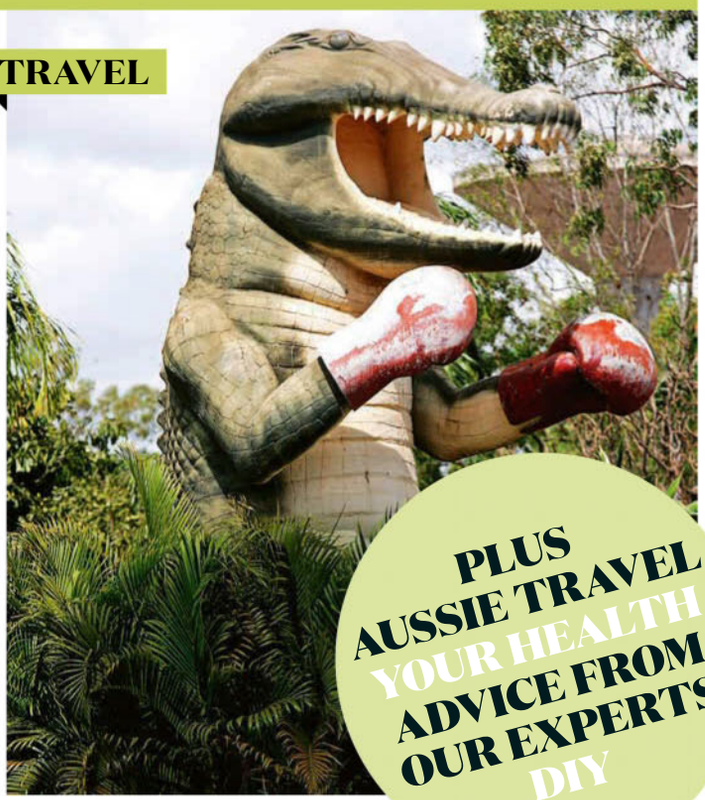
PLUS

LOADS MORE

(TRAVEL, HEALTH, ADVICE & DIY)

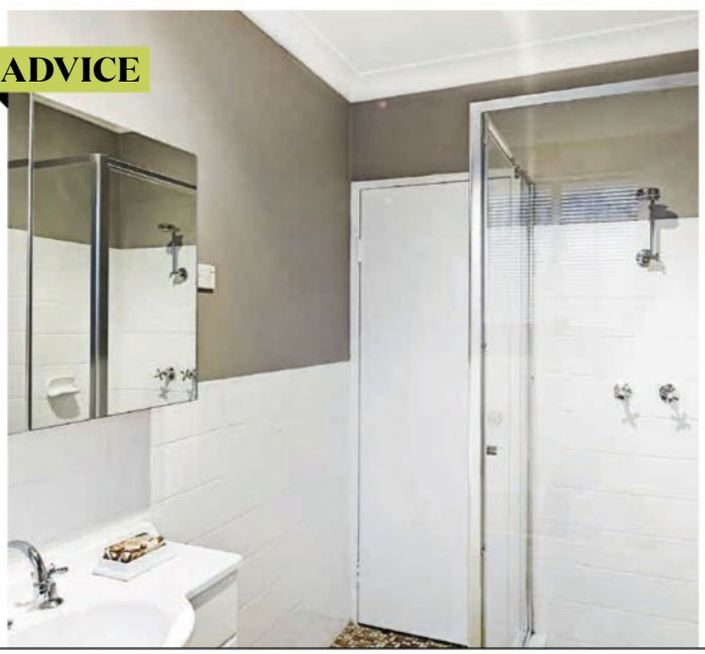


HEALTH

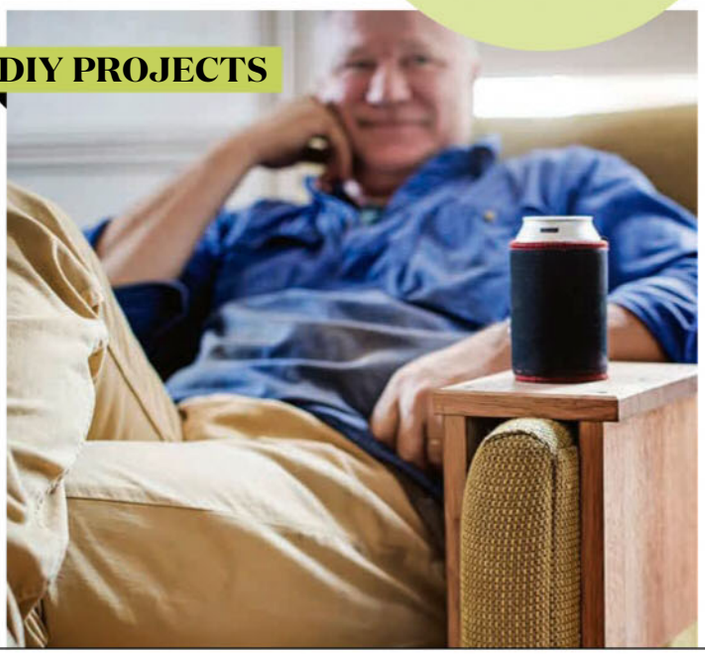


TRAVEL

PLUS
AUSSIE TRAVEL
YOUR HEALTH
ADVICE FROM OUR EXPERTS
DIY



ADVICE



DIY PROJECTS

PHOTOGRAPHY GETTYIMAGES.COM.AU (HEALTH & CROCODILE); YIANNI ASPRADAKIS (ADVICE); CHRIS WARNES (SCOTTY)

THIS MONTH BEST BIG THINGS, HEALTH THROUGH THE AGES, EXPERTS' ADVICE, DIY



BIG THINGS

LIVING LARGE

It's a big world – especially here in Australia, where size matters. We've measured up the **best big things** within our borders that deserve a visit.

Knock-out attraction The Big Crocodile in Humpty Doo, Northern Territory, is a fun take on the boxing kangaroo.

THERE'S NO DENYING IT, Australia has an obsession with big monuments. From The Big Pineapple to The Big Lobster, we're a nation of people who love being photographed next to giant novelty structures, particularly of the animal variety. Because it's important to explore what's on your own doorstep, here's our pick of the best big things you should put on your "must see" list.

The Big Crocodile

WHERE Humpty Doo, NT.
WHAT It's a crocodile, but not like any crocodile you've ever seen before. This impressive 8m x 8m boxing crocodile – a fun take on the boxing kangaroo symbol – was built to draw tourists to the area and to celebrate Australia's victory in the 1983 America's Cup.
TO DO This lively outback town, between Darwin and Kakadu, is full of character, and the Humpty Doo Hotel is a good place to meet some great people on your way to Kakadu. If you're interested in reptiles other than crocodiles, stroll in to Graeme Gow's Reptile World, home to more than 300 species of snake. The Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve offers unique birdlife encounters, and you can book guided walks. The kids will love taking selfies with the Humpty Dumpty statue at Humpty Park.



The Big Lobster

WHERE Kingston SE, SA.
WHAT It took six months to build in 1979, but South Australia's Big Lobster was worth the wait. Ranking in the top 20 of the most Instagrammed Australian tourist attractions, Larry the Lobster, as he is locally known, is 17m tall and 15.2m long! His original purpose was to draw attention to the Kingston Visitor Centre but Larry now also oversees a restaurant specialising in seafood.
TO DO Kingston SE is renowned for its lobster and crayfishing opportunities, but if you prefer to stay on dry land, there's a string of beautiful historic buildings in the township that are worth a visit – the post office, built in 1867, is a highlight. Encourage the kids to burn off some energy by climbing the Cape Jaffa Lighthouse. For a change of pace, the nearby Mt Benson area is home to many award-winning vineyards.

The Big Penguin

WHERE Penguin, Tas.
WHAT Standing at 3m tall, the big penguin is located in – where else? – the town of Penguin, on Tasmania's north-west coast. The town was named for the many penguin rookeries along the Bass Strait coastline, and Penguin's big attraction – made of ferro cement and fibreglass – was built in 1975 to celebrate the town's centenary.
TO DO If you'd like to see a real penguin, station yourself at Penguin Point at night sometime between September and March and you're likely to see

TEXT TRUDIE MCCONNOCHIE **PHOTOGRAPHY** GETTYIMAGES.COM.AU (CROCODILE); ALAMY.COM (KOALA & RAM)



Happy fella
At 3m tall, the Big Penguin in Tassie is flipping cool.







Not-so cuddly
The Big Koala in Victoria is made of bronze and steel.



Baa-rilliant!
The Big Ram in WA represents its home's agricultural heritage.

TIP
To avoid car accidents, pull over and find a safe car park before taking any pictures.

penguins coming out of the water and waddling up the beach to nest. Or take a road trip along the Bass Highway – it makes for a memorable drive, decorated with a postcard-perfect rugged coastline and pretty wildflowers.

The Big Banana

WHERE Coffs Harbour, NSW.
WHAT One of our most recognisable novelty structures, the Big Banana is regarded as one of Australia's first "big things". Built in 1964 by John Landi to draw attention to his roadside banana stall, the large-scale concrete fruit became such a hit that when the banana plantation was sold, it was developed into an entire theme park.
TO DO The Big Banana theme park includes a downhill toboggan ride, lolly making, an ice-skating rink and a waterslide, as well as a restaurant and souvenir shop. No wonder it describes itself as "a big bunch of fun!". If you tire of bananas, Coffs Harbour also boasts access to dozens of national parks and reserves, and if you're in town between June and November, take the kids to Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve and challenge them to some whale spotting.

The Big Pineapple

WHERE Woombye, Qld.
WHAT It's heritage listed and has been photographed on Instagram more than 5000 times, so there's no disputing the Big Pineapple's popularity. Built in 1971, it was modelled on a similar structure at the Dole cannery in Hawaii – which has since been dismantled, making Queensland's Pineapple the world's largest. And yes, you can climb to the top! Although it was once part of a beloved theme park, facilities around the structure are now sparse.
TO DO The Pineapple overlooks markets on Saturday mornings, and there's a small petting zoo next door, home to koalas, crocodiles and baboons. While you're in the area it's worth checking out the Sunshine Coast's tourist attractions including Aussie World, Australia Zoo and The Ginger Factory. If you're the outdoorsy type, the Sunshine Coast hinterland is a natural wonderland, with plenty of scenic walks.

The Giant Koala

WHERE Dadswells Bridge, Vic.
WHAT Koalas aren't known for their size, but this monument to the much-loved cuddly marsupial is a whopping 14m high! Built in 1989, the Giant Koala is made of bronze set in a steel frame. And, you can actually go inside the koala – sort of – as it houses a souvenir shop. This towering statue overlooks a take-away shop, pub and small zoo where you can get up close to two koalas named Koala and Cuddles.
TO DO It might be home to a giant koala, but Dadswells Bridge itself is not giant – it's really just a fun stopover for an ice-cream and quick zoo visit during a road trip to the Grampians region. This area boasts wineries and incredible nature walks alongside waterfalls and dramatic rock faces in the mountains.

The Giant Ram

WHERE Wagin, WA.
WHAT Don't be sheepish, check out the 7m-high, 15m-long Giant Ram south-east of Perth. The fibreglass farm animal was constructed in 1985 to celebrate the town of Wagin's proud agricultural heritage. It took 18 months to build, and is so massive that power lines had to be cut to allow it to be transported by crane to its location.
TO DO If you're visiting in March, the Wagin Woolorama is a not-to-be-missed agricultural show that draws 20,000 people to the town every year, and offers activities for the whole family. Also worth a visit is the impressive Wagin Historical Village, a fascinating replica of life in the 1880s. And nearby, just over an hour away, is the town of Lake Grace where Mother Nature puts on a pretty show, with striking white cliffs, stunning salt lakes and colourful wildflowers. H+
✱ *For more travel inspiration, visit Visit* **homesplusmag.com.au**

WANT MORE
Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page to see a gallery of more "Big Things" around Australia.



Physical education Wellbeing is a result of giving your body all the support it needs.

TAKE CARE

BODY BOOSTERS

No matter what your age, you need a **little TLC** for the **body and mind.**

AT EVERY AGE and stage, your body's needs are different. In order to maintain optimum physical and mental health, it's important to make sure you're getting the right nutrients. A healthy, balanced diet is important no matter how old you are, but the extra demands you face at different life stages mean you could be deficient – and that's when reaching for a supplement can be helpful.

20/30s

Think about

Your early 20s are a time you might be studying. The "student diet" of spag bol and instant noodles may mean you **lack important nutrients**, so take a multivitamin (preferably high in B vitamins to help with stress). In your 30s, career pressure and balancing family life can be hard to manage, and it's easy to ignore signs of **stress and exhaustion**.

Essential

A good skincare regimen is vital. Wearing a SPF30+ facial sunscreen with UVA/UVB protection year-round will reduce your chance of sunspots, wrinkles and pigmentation in later life. Get into the habit of **taking off your make-up** every night, including mascara. Try Garnier Micellar Cleansing Water as a mild all-purpose make-up remover.

Deficiencies

It is very common for women in this age group to be **low in iron** – an especially important consideration if you are trying to conceive. It is also possible you could be low in **vitamin B12** (riboflavin) which keeps your metabolism in check. Nor is it unheard of to be low in **omega-3 fatty acids**, found in oily fish such as sardines and anchovies.

Remedy

A busy lifestyle and a dependence on processed foods can deplete nutrient levels. Superfood supplements can be helpful; try **raw cacao**, higher in antioxidants than other superfoods, **or super green powders** for a big hit of vegetables in concentrated form. If you feel you are low in iron, see your GP, as it's important not to take iron supplements in excess.

TEXT ROBIN HILL **PHOTOGRAPHY** GETTYIMAGES.COM.AU

40s

Think about

It's **harder to bounce back** from working hard and playing hard. Muscle pains may become more prominent, so a supplement such as **magnesium** can help. You may be more susceptible to colds and flu as you **juggle work and family life**; and serious health setbacks such as bowel cancer or coronary heart disease are both high in this age bracket.

Essential

If you've been in the habit of not **looking after yourself**, you need to turn a corner by your 40s. While poor diet, for example, can generally be excused in earlier decades, your 40s has the potential to shape your health for the rest of your life. This can be a time when stress and demands can lead you to cut corners in relation to diet and exercise.

Deficiencies

This can happen at any age, but you are more prone to **high cholesterol** or **high blood pressure**, which are important to keep a regular check on. A diet heavy in saturated fats can result in a high cholesterol reading. As well, have a blood test done regularly to see if you are low in vitamin D and zinc, or have fatty liver disease.

Remedy

As well as exercise and diet, supplements can help regulate cholesterol too. **Krill** is beneficial for heart health, cholesterol and osteoarthritis. For general health, try an antioxidant-rich **vitamin supplement** such as Blackmores Slow Release Multi + Antioxidants. If you are vitamin D deficient, go for a combined vitamin D and calcium supplement.

50s

Think about

This is a time in your life when you may experience twinges of arthritis or other aches and pains. **High levels of fatigue**, due to hormonal changes brought on by menopause are not uncommon, and **stress and anxiety** can make this transition more taxing. It can also be a time where keeping your weight under control may be harder.

Essential

Signs of age can begin to appear, particularly in areas such as your **hands, neck and around the eyes**. There are many skincare products specifically targeting mature complexions, as the aforementioned **hormonal changes** can result in drier, more papery skin. Try the Lacura Skin Science Revitalise range for mature skin, available at Aldi.

Deficiencies

This is a decade where you need to be aware of your overall health. An annual check-up with your GP for **blood pressure**, **weight**, **cholesterol and bone density** is essential. A mammogram and pap smear every two years are strongly recommended, as are having a bowel cancer screen and an eye test for macular degeneration and glaucoma.

Remedy

Regular sleep and a balanced diet without excessive caffeine or alcohol are the best things you could do for yourself. In terms of supplements Blackmore's Macu-Vision protects the eyes, Glucosamine HCL 1500mg helps **joint mobility** and arthritis relief, and Swisse Menopause Balance may lower menopause signs such as night sweats and hot flushes.

60s

Think about

This is the decade to above all else stay **mentally and physically strong**. Doing resistance exercises such as weights is said to be good for preserving bone density and flexibility. Walking is beneficial for general health. Simple ways to boost your brain health include doing a crossword every day and eating more walnuts, cashews and Brazil nuts.

Essential

If you feel run down, be sure to add vitamins and supplements to your daily dietary mix. In addition, have a regular blood test to see if you are low in **vitamin D**, as this is linked to bone health (low bone density makes you more vulnerable to osteoarthritis). **Checking for skin changes** that may indicate skin cancer is important.

Deficiencies

It is not uncommon at this age, especially if recovering from illness or surgery, to need an immunity boost. **Brain health** is another area where you may be more vulnerable. And, of course, **heart health** is paramount. More than ever, fresh food and a balanced amount of protein, carbs and nutrient-rich foods is your ticket to good health.

Remedy

Look for age-specific supplements and beauty products. Centrum has a range of vitamins focused on cardio, energy and **vision health**. Caruso's Super Curcumin Arthritis Relief may be beneficial in relieving inflammation, painful joints and stiffness. Keep your skin supple with a body moisturiser such as Kenkay Dermatological Moisturiser. H+



ABOUT JAMES

James Treble is a qualified colour consultant/interior designer, with over 20 years' experience in varied roles within the building and design industries.

DECOR SOLUTIONS

WITH JAMES TREBLE

MULTI-TASKING SPACES

Your home is also an office, hotel and playground. **James Treble** explains how.



High and low
To maximise space, create storage solutions above and below furniture.

FOR MANY OF US, our homes have become mixed-use zones, providing a place for us to catch up on work and a hotel for extended family to come visit while also suiting the varied requirements of the modern mixed-generational family.

For that reason, the idea of creating multi-tasking spaces has never been so important. And if you live in a cosy inner-city pad or an apartment, the need for **practical storage solutions** is key to making your home both **functional and welcoming**.

I've got some great tips to help you rethink how you make the best use of your home, allowing it to meet everyone in the family's needs.

SUPER SYSTEMS

Like myself, a lot of people now either work from home or take some work home to complete in their own time. But it's important to ensure the dining table doesn't become an office or general dumping zone. For this reason, **having a system** for organising and storing your paperwork, bills, keys and phones will make sure that surfaces don't become cluttered. Look to handy wall-hanging systems, **bowls** or **baskets with lids**, or assign every family member their own drawer in the sideboard. Maybe even introduce a colour for **storage boxes or folders**. Once you train yourself and the family to follow the system you'll be amazed at how organised you will feel.

STORE MORE

Of course, storage is important no matter how large or small your home is, but the need to make the best use of every inch of your home so it can perform well for a multitude of tasks makes storage even more vital.

We would all love to have an extra room, but these can actually become **dumping zones** rather than keeping us organised, so instead of looking out, **look up**! Consider all these ways to make your home organised yet tranquil: add wall shelving, maximise the space above your kitchen cabinets and robes with decorative baskets or storage boxes, and make sure all your furniture contains practical storage solutions. Remember, storage doesn't have to look like a pile of files. There are so many ways to keep everything organised and still looking attractive, such as labelled boxes, tubs and baskets as well as decorative magazine holders. Stick with **one or two colours** to create a cohesive look. Your storage can become a feature rather than something to quickly hide when guests pop by unexpectedly.

TEXT JAMES TREBLE **PHOTOGRAPHY** BAUERSYNDICATION.COM.AU



Colour me happy Decorative touches will keep a home office welcoming.



Toy stories Making space for toys – and teaching kids to use it – will keep the room tidy.

KIDS' BEDROOMS

Of course, kids are known to spread their possessions over every surface of the home. But having systems will help them to make the best use of their rooms, as well as saving you time picking up after them. Adding **tall shelving** for less-used clothes or toys, placing **baskets under the bed** and providing clearly labelled storage solutions are all great ways to organise rooms, and if you let kids be free with colours to personalise their own space they'll feel involved. A great tip is to paint a wall in **chalkboard paint** so they can write notes and reminders, as well as making their spaces look cool and fun.



Read & reserve Buco **magazine bin**, $34.95, from Freedom.

Handle me Stickat **basket**, $12.99 for set of two, from Ikea.

Write time Hejsan **pen cups**, $4.99 for set of three, from Ikea.

"There are so many ways to keep everything organised and still looking attractive."

HOME-OFFICE TRANSFORMERS

The best way for a home office/guest bedroom combination to work is with a **sofa bed** or maybe a wall- or fold-down bed. The trick is to maximise desk and office storage to allow for a practical work area, while making it easy to clear away the files when a guest arrives so it is still cosy and inviting.

Remember to actually lie down on a prospective sofa bed before you invest in it. Everyone needs a good night's sleep, so if the bed's not comfortable enough for you to sleep on, you really can't expect anyone else to – especially not an elderly relative!

FURNITURE THAT DOES DOUBLE DUTY

When it comes to furnishing, picking the right pieces can make all the difference to how your home performs for the range of tasks required. **Coffee tables** with storage underneath and **lounges** with thin frames will allow you to maximise your floor area. But the real trick is to make a space for everyone in the household so they aren't on top of each other.

A **home office built into a cupboard** lets you close the doors on mess without having to pack it all up, and this idea can be built into a free-standing cabinet if you're renting. If you're organised, exposed filing and storage can look great in tall **open shelving units**, but if you know you're a messy worker and like to spread out, then look for closed doors on your shelving so at least you can look organised and neat on the outside!

Striking a balance between work and living spaces – while still allowing for all the family's needs – is not as hard as you might think. By putting a little thought into your room layout and furniture placement, you will be able to be organised and still enjoy a tidy and inviting home. H+

DECOR SOLUTIONS

WITH JAMES TREBLE

HOW TO: SELECT THE RIGHT RUG

Our interiors expert **James Treble** gives his ground rules on how to pick rugs that'll completely floor your guests.

A RUG CAN make or break a room, but getting it right is easy if you follow a few simple guidelines. Colour, texture and size all play their part, so here are some tips to help you find that perfect rug for your home.

Lounge room

In this room, the rug will define the space. It should be large enough to sit underneath the front legs of the sofa and armchairs so your feet are on fabric not the floor. Measure the lounge width and allow enough space on either side for the front legs of the armchairs.

If it's a large room, or you're renting, try overlapping two medium-sized rugs. They can be mixed and matched to suit any room, or future homes.

Dining room

The rug should always be large enough so that when the chairs are out and being used, all four legs of every chair still fit on the rug.

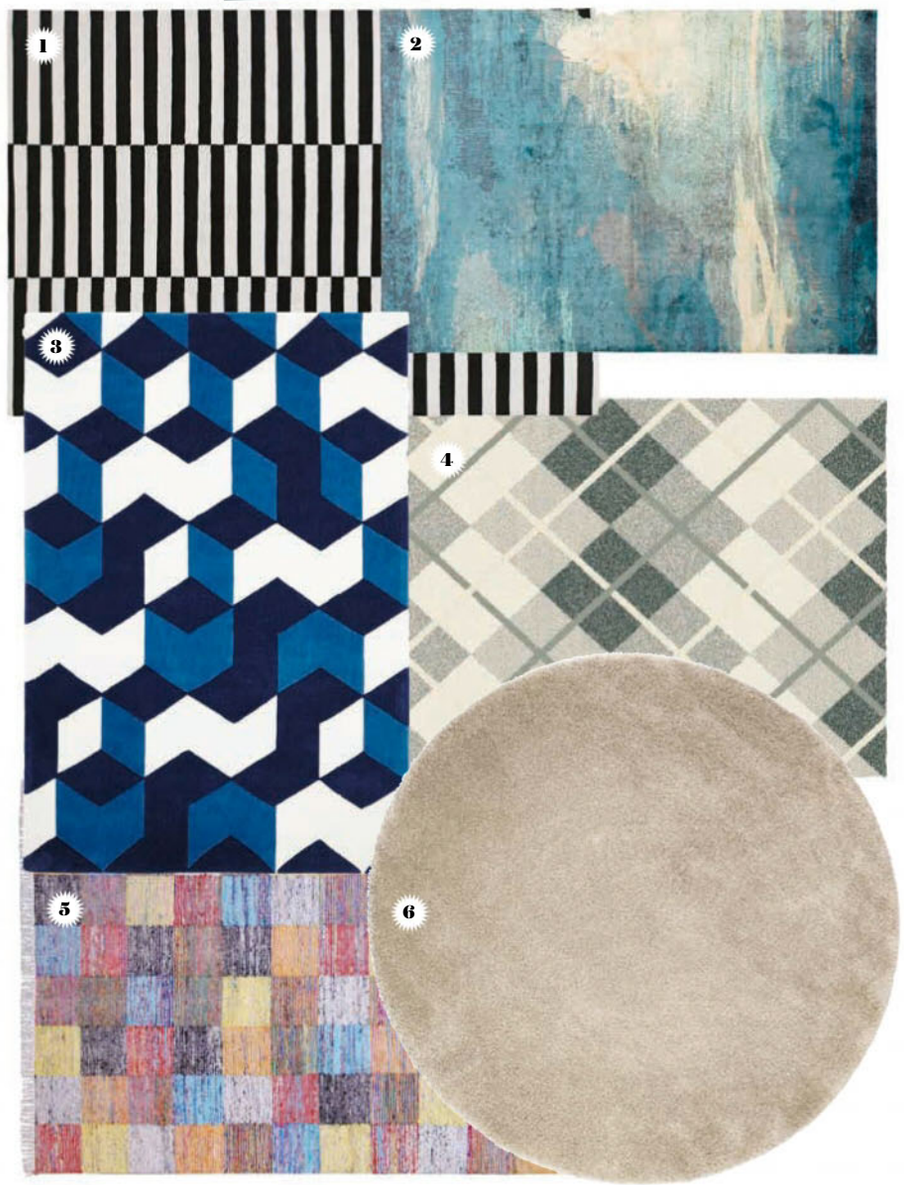
Bedroom

Bear in mind that a rug sitting underneath the whole bed will be hard to get out and clean, so runners or smaller rugs on either side of the bed will work best. Make sure they're large enough so that your feet hit them when you get out of bed on cold mornings.

Colour

If your lounge and accessories are quite neutral, a bold pattern or colour can really lift the whole room. If your room is already busy with pattern and colour, a block-coloured rug may work best, in a tone in harmony with the room.

Our neutral picks



Got it covered

1 Stockholm **rug**, $299 for 1.7m x 2.4m, from Ikea. **2** Estoke Modern **rug**, $79.95 for 1.1m x 1.6m, from Zanui. **3** Lene Blue Modern **rug**, $149.95 for 1.65m x 1.15m, from Zanui. **4** Rubix **rug**, $299 for 1.6m x 2.3m, from Harvey Norman. **5** Over The Rainbow **rug** in Multi, $499 for 1.6m x 2.3m, from Freedom. **6** Ådum **rug** in Off-white, $79 for 1.3m, from Ikea.

TEXT JAMES TREBLE **PHOTOGRAPHY** BAUERSYNCICATION.COM.AU

TIPS

ALL ABOUT WEAVE Look to your own style – does a Persian or a sisal rug work best for your room and personal style? Maybe a shag rug is more for you.

SAFETY FIRST If you're placing a rug over wall-to-wall carpet remember to avoid a thick pile as it can create a trip hazard.

SHAPING UP A rectangular rug will generally work best for a rectangular room, while a square or round rug will suit a more square-shaped room.

HUE IT IS Consider the colour of the existing floor and furnishings and how they will all look together.

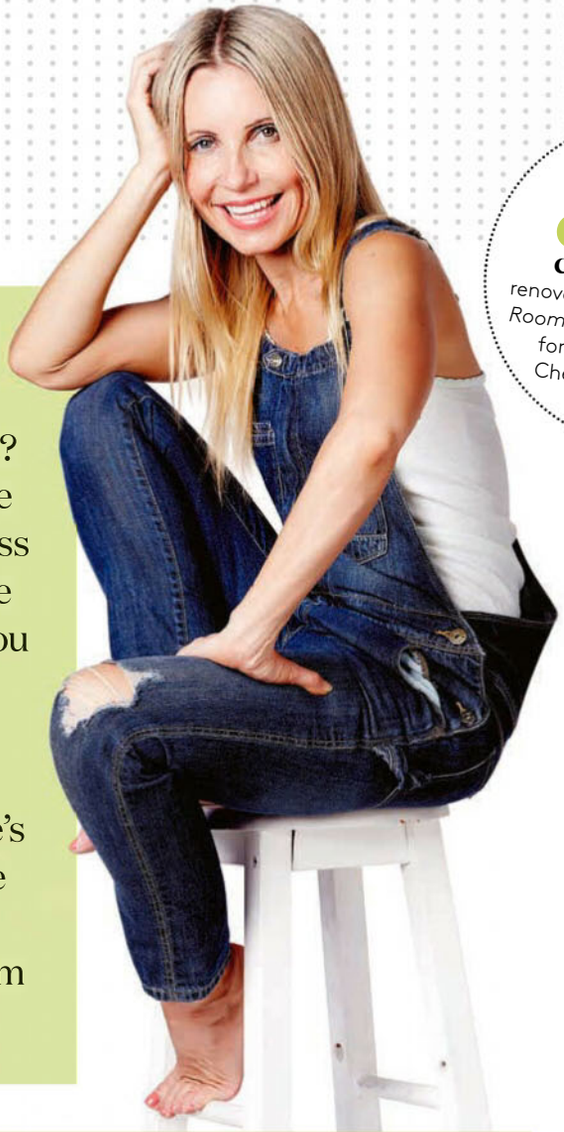
FULL VOLUME If there is little pattern in your lounge fabric or cushions then be bold with a more textured rug to make a statement.

LIGHT IT UP If you have dark furniture and dark floors, a lighter rug will help lift the room and add some contrast. There should still be visible floor around the rug, so it becomes a feature and doesn't dominate the space. H+

"A rug in your lounge room will define the space."

TIP

A bold patterned rug will add interest and warmth to a plain room – great for renters!



There's nothing like a **lack of funds** to crush creativity, right? Well, actually I'd argue that sometimes the less money in the kitty, the **more imaginative** you have to get, whether it's shopping for an outfit or revamping a property. And there's no better test of those **inventive skills** than renovating a bathroom on a **limited budget**.

ABOUT CHERIE

Cherie Barber is a renovator on TV's *The Living Room* and runs renovating-for-profit workshops. Cheriebarber.com.au



before

Sales pitch
This bathroom was in need of an update to appeal to a wider market.

RENO SOLUTIONS **WITH CHERIE BARBER**

TRICKS TO STRETCH YOUR **BATHROOM RENO BUDGET**

Here are four creative ways to get a contemporary bathroom without breaking the bank. Small changes can make a big statement, says **Cherie Barber**.

WORK WITH WHAT YOU'VE GOT

The bathroom on the right was transformed almost solely through paint and a few smart trimmings, but you have to agree the difference is amazing. No expensive plumbing was required, as the update was entirely cosmetic. White Knight has a range of paints created to gloss straight over the top of dated tiles or cabinetry, which I put to good use here in addition to a modern colour scheme for the walls.

PULL OFF A GLASS ACT

When you cast your eye around any old bathroom there's one eyesore that's bound to make you grimace: the grotty, dated shower screen. Well, the good news is, the price of glass panels has come down so much in recent times. This shower screen, fully installed, cost a whisker over $250. Together with the $115 mirrored shaving cabinet, it's taken the bathroom from drab to fab.

BROADEN APPEAL

One thing is for sure: bright blue in the bathroom isn't for everyone. The bathroom above needed to appeal to a wider market, so a few simple and inexpensive changes were made. The ceiling was painted white, a band of tiles painted black, a new toilet seat was installed and new flooring laid – that "floorboard" lookalike vinyl was a hit, and cost less than $60.

UPDATE THE HARDWARE

Sometimes just a simple change – such as new handles, taps, towel rails, door knobs, hooks – can really modernise a dated bathroom. Taps, in particular, are design statements in themselves. Just don't be lured into buying expensive ones when you can pick up cheap lookalikes from places such as Bunnings at a fraction of the cost. And the best thing is, any capable DIYer can easily install them. H+

* *For more expert advice, visit* **homesplusmag.com.au**

TEXT CHERIE BARBER **PHOTOGRAPHY** YIANNI ASPRADAKIS



after

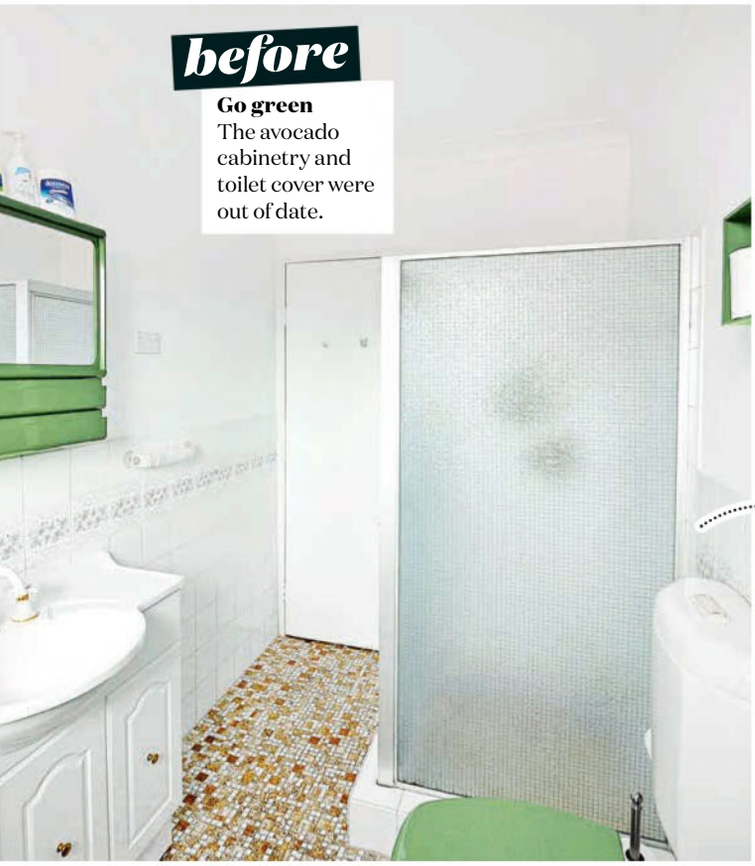
Back to basies
A simple black and white scheme, new toilet seat and flooring worked wonders.

White out
The plain white ceiling visually lifts the height of the room.

Ground zero
The floorboards are actually self-adhesive vinyl, secured for a bargain price.

TOTAL $122.69

before



Go green
The avocado cabinetry and toilet cover were out of date.

"Sometimes just a simple change – such as new taps – can really modernise a dated bathroom."

after



Transparency
Swapping a frosted shower screen for a clear one opens up the space.

TOTAL $520.50

COMPETITION

WIN! WIN! WIN! PRIZES TO BE WON

TOTAL VALUE +$4000!

Get inspired to **redecorate, style and clean up** this winter with these amazing prizes for house and home.



PRIZE #1

BOHOME
Win a gorgeously patterned, round **Ziggy throw** in the design of your choice valued at up to $119.95. Bohome.com.au



PRIZE #2

ENJOY LIGHTING
Win 1 of 2 stylish Artisan Designs **flameless candle trilogies** in Carrara Marble, including three candles in various sizes, valued at up to $129.85 each. Enjoylighting.com.au

PRIZE #3

BEST HOUSES AUSTRALIA
Win 1 of 20 **Best Houses Australia TV series DVD box sets**, valued at up to $39.95. Get an up-close look inside some of the most inspiring dwellings around, and meet the professionals who create them. Shop.abc.net.au







PRIZE #4

ESSENTIALS IN A BOX
Win a sweetly **scented gift pack** including an Ultrasonic Candle Diffuser, three essential oil blends and three aromatherapy spray mists, valued at up to $274.95. In-a-box.com.au



WIN A $1000 MAKEOVER!

OUR SUPER STYLISTS are looking for drab spaces that might need a bit of a revamp. If you have a room that needs some decorating love, submit your pics at **homesplusmag.com.au/competitions** You could win a makeover by one of our stylists, including $1000 worth of product!



PLUS WIN



VALUE $109.95

PRIZE #5

WHITE MAGIC

Win 1 of 5 **White Magic Spin Mop packs** (hand-press system), valued at up to $109.95. Make cleaning a breeze: dust or mop with the machine-washable mop heads and effortlessly expel water with the spin mop spinner. Whitemagic.biz



VALUE $450

PRIZE #6

BEAUMONT TILES

Win 1 of 2 **DIY tiling starter kits**, valued at $450, including a $250 voucher to spend at a Beaumont Tiles store and create the bathroom, kitchen or laundry of your dreams. Beaumont-tiles.com.au



VALUE $40

PRIZE #7

COLLECTED BY LEEANN YARE

Win 1 of 10 **travel bag kits** designed by interiors guru and Collected owner LeeAnn Yare after spending 20 years travelling the world as an airline pilot! It includes a travel bag and cosmetic pouch, and is valued at up to $40. Collected.co.nz

How to enter:

To win any of the fabulous prizes on these pages, nominate which prize you would like to win and tell us in 25 words or less: **"How do you spend time at home during winter?"**

In your entry, indicate which prize you would like, include your full name, postal address, telephone number, email address and age. There are three ways to enter:

1. VISIT OUR WEBSITE, Homesplusmag.com.au

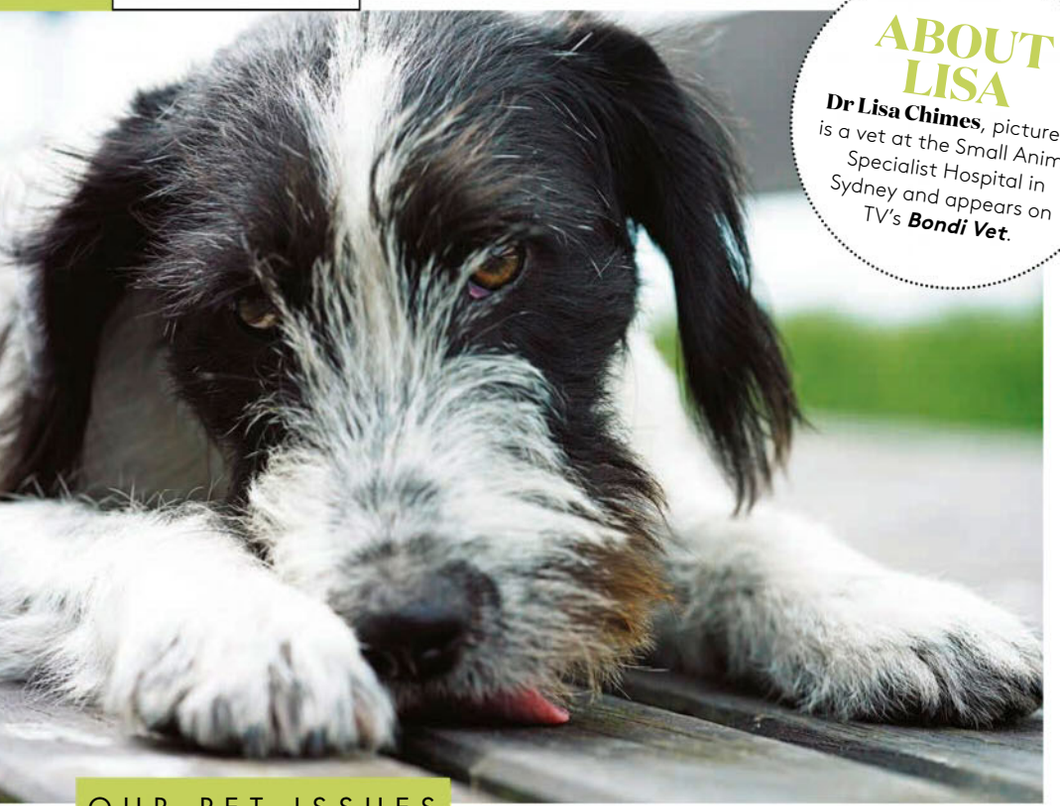
2. VIA VIEWA See the view a information below.

3. WRITE TO US at **homes+** August competition, GPO Box 4088, Sydney, 2000. Include each entry separately in one envelope, indicating which prize you would like to win on each.

ENTER THE COMP

Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page to enter the competition.

The promotion closes at 23.59pm (AEST) 16 August 2015. Entry is open to **homes+** magazine readers who are Australian residents aged 18 years and over. Limit of one entry per prize permitted per person. This is a game of skill, not a game of chance. For full terms and conditions go to Homesplusmag.com.au. See page 111 for Privacy Notice. If you do not want your information given to any organisation not associated with this promotion, please indicate this clearly on your entry. The Promoter is Bauer Media Pty Ltd (ABN 18 053 273 546).



ABOUT LISA

Dr Lisa Chimes, pictured, is a vet at the Small Animal Specialist Hospital in Sydney and appears on TV's ***Bondi Vet***.



OUR PET ISSUES

LISA'S **PET** ADVICE

Pets bring lots of love and joy to the home, but problems can arise, too. **Expert help** is at hand!

My cat becomes very distressed when I transport her in a cage. How can I make this process easier?

Cats are creatures that don't forget! Your cat probably associates the cage with trips to the vet, which can sometimes be an unpleasant experience. You need to teach your cat that the cage isn't a bad place. **Leave the cage** in the area **where she spends most of her time** and leave the door open so that she can wander. Spray the cage with Feliway (cat pheromone) so that she realises it's safe. **Place food bowls in the cage** so that she learns to understand that good things happen in the cage. If you do this weeks to months before you need to transport her then she will be much more willing to go into the cage. About **15 minutes before transport spray the cage with Feliway**. Once you are on your way, cover the cage with a towel so that visual stressors are reduced.

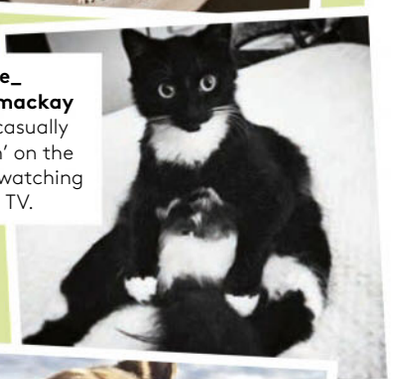
My dog constantly licks her feet and has done so for years. Her feet are now stained pink. What could be causing this?

Feet licking in dogs is usually a sign of itchiness, most often related to an allergy. The most **common type of allergy** is a condition called **atopy**, where they are allergic to things in their environment (e.g. dust mites, mould, pollens, grass). Affected dogs develop **itchy skin and ears**, and licking of the paws is a common symptom. Dog saliva causes light-coloured fur to turn pinkish-brown. Even though the licking can be annoying to you, your dog is probably highly itchy, so it's best to **visit your vet as soon as possible**. The best way to treat the allergy is to eliminate the things in the environment that your dog is allergic to – in order to work this out, your dog will need to visit a veterinary dermatologist who will perform allergy testing. H+

@ginger_midget83
Soaking up as much sun as possible in this winter cold.



@love_mrsjmackay
Just casually chillin' on the bed, watching some TV.





@fawn_frenchie
Scout is loving the sand between his toes!

Pets of the month!

Want your **cute pet** to be featured in our next issue? Just **post your snap** on any social media, tag us at *@homesplusmag* and hashtag *#homesplusmagpets*.

TEXT LISA CHIMES **PHOTOGRAPHY** GETTYIMAGES.COM.AU

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WHERE **TO BUY**

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+ INDICATES THAT THE SUPPLIER OFFERS ONLINE OR MAIL-ORDER SHOPPING OR ORDERING



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Cash Converters Cashconverters.com.au
Citta Design Cittadesign.com +
Clickon Furniture Clickonfurniture.com.au +
Collected By Leeann Yare Collected.co.nz +
Connect Furniture Connectfurniture.com.au +
Cotton On Cottonon.com.au +
Country Road Countryroad.com.au +
Crockers Paint & Wallpaper Crockerspaint.com +
Curious Grace Curiousgrace.com.au +
Cush & Co Cushandco.com.au +

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Enrich Interiors Enrichinteriors.com.au
Essentials In-A-Box In-a-box.com.au +
Etsy Etsy.com +

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Gumtree Gumtree.com.au +

H&M Hm.com/au
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Have You Met Miss Jones Haveyoumetmissjones.com.au +

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Kikki.K Kikki-k.com +
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HAVE YOU JUST DONE A RENO AND/OR REVAMPED YOUR BACKYARD? YOU COULD WIN $1000!
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ABOUT SCOTTY

Scotty Cam is a DIY legend, *The Block* host and a top bloke. Plus, he's Dad to Charlie, Sarah and Bill.

SCOTTY'S DIY

TIMBER DRINK STAND

Scotty Cam shows you how to create the easiest table for your armchair. It's a great spot for a beer or food!

BEGIN WITH MEASURING TAPE; PENCIL; 230MM X 19MM X 1M HARDWOOD TIMBER; DROP SAW; DRILL; SCREWS; CORDLESS PLANER; SANDPAPER; OLD CLOTH; ALL-WEATHER STAIN; LATEX GLOVES

STEP ONE Use a measuring tape to measure the width of the arm on your armchair (mine is 92mm). Use a measuring tape and pencil to measure and mark 200mm from one end of the timber piece. From that mark, measure and mark another 200mm, then a final 150mm (change 150mm size depending on the width of your armchair).

STEP TWO Use a drop saw to cut along the three lines. You should now have two 200mm timber pieces, these will be the arms, and one 150mm piece, this will be the top of the drink stand.

STEP THREE On the underside of the 150mm piece, measure 1cm in from one longer side, then measure and mark the width of the timber (19mm). From the 19mm point, measure and mark the width of the arm of your chair (92mm), then measure and mark another 19mm. You should now have two rectangles drawn on either side of the timber.

STEP FOUR Drill three evenly spaced holes on each rectangle on both sides of timber.

STEP FIVE Sand top timber piece, then use a cordless planer to neaten the edges.

STEP SIX Stand two arm pieces up and place 150mm piece on top, lining pre-drilled holes with the top of the arms, creating an upside down "U" shape. Drill together using screws.

STEP SEVEN Sand drink stand, then use an old cloth to stain timber. It's a good idea to wear latex gloves to avoid staining your hands. Leave timber to dry. H+



I'll do you a deal
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DIFFICULTY RATING CHART EASY AS 1, 2, 3 A BIT HARDER GET A FRIEND TO HELP YOU

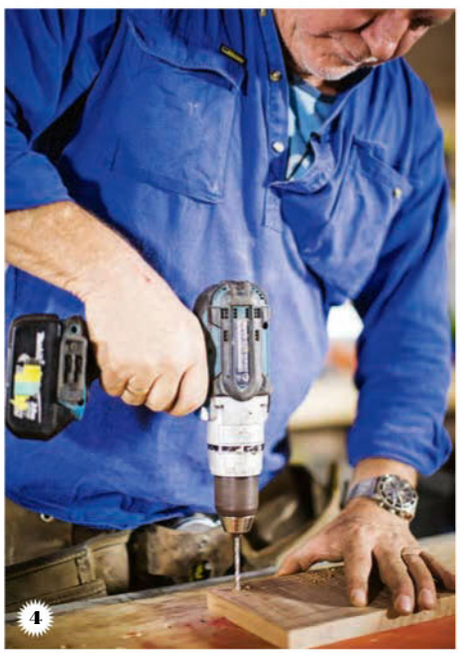


2


3


5

TIP Make sure you have a well-sanded timber base before applying any paint or stain.


4


6


7



STEP-BY-STEP VIDEO

Use the free ***viewa*** app to scan this page and check out Scotty's how-to video for his handy timber drink stand.

PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS WARNES

NEXT MONTH

(ON SALE AUGUST 17)



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Want a #sneakpeek of our next cover before it hits the newsstands? Follow us on Instagram or Facebook!

full of expert tips, fun DIY projects and stunning homes to help inspire your interiors



MAKE SCOTTY CAM'S HAT RACK



FAMILY HOMES



HOME OFFICE FIX

September issue homes+

- Lots of fun, easy DIYs and decorating projects
- See inside three beautiful Aussie homes
- Recipes for a month of meals
- A guide to window treatments
- The latest bargain buys for $30 and under

PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS WARNES (HAT RACK); MAREE HOMER (BEDROOM & KITCHEN); KEN MIDDLETON (OFFICE)

AFFORDABLE ALL-AUSSIE STYLE

GUARANTEED BROWNIE POINTS



CLASSIC OR GOOOOEY?

We understand brownies are as individual as you, so we've developed the FUDGE FACTOR. You can make the perfect GOOOOEY or CLASSIC fudge brownies!

Gooey Fudge
32 min

Classic Fudge Brownie
38 min

Easy to make and even easier to eat. Try one today, your taste buds will love you.


your beautiful home
is just a click away
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